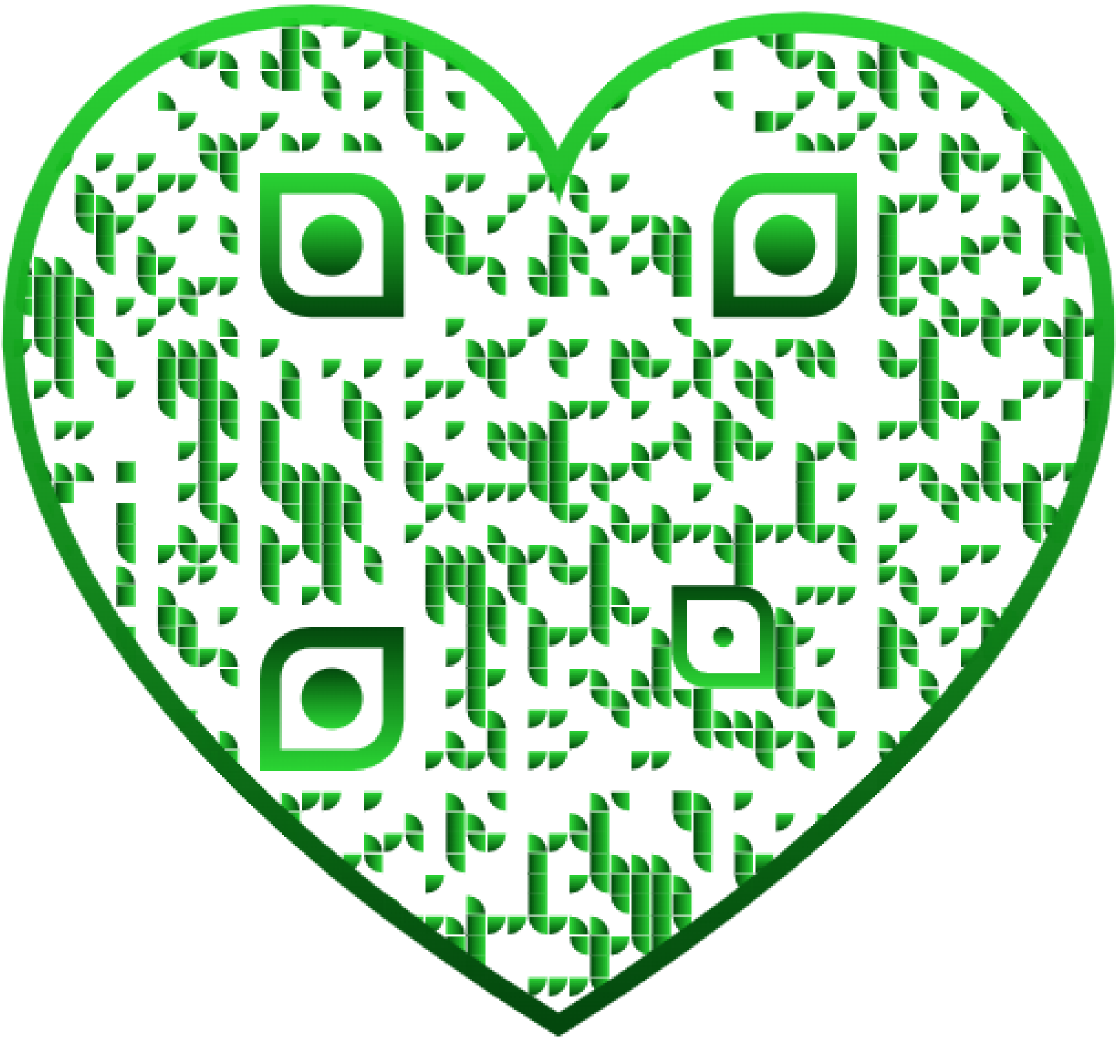
artists DOWN UNDER

Australia and New Zealand

Issue 105 | december 2025 | digital artistry



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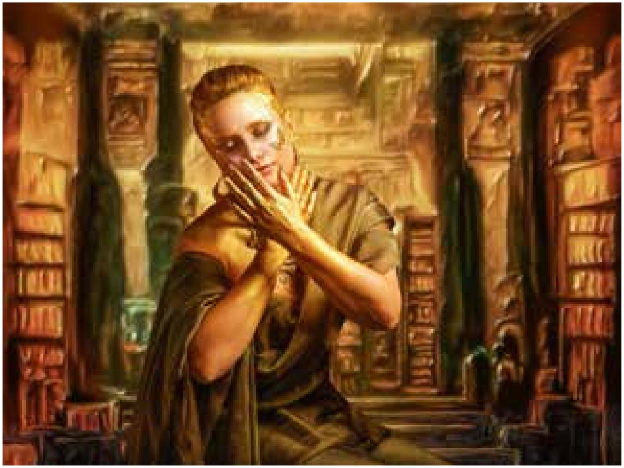

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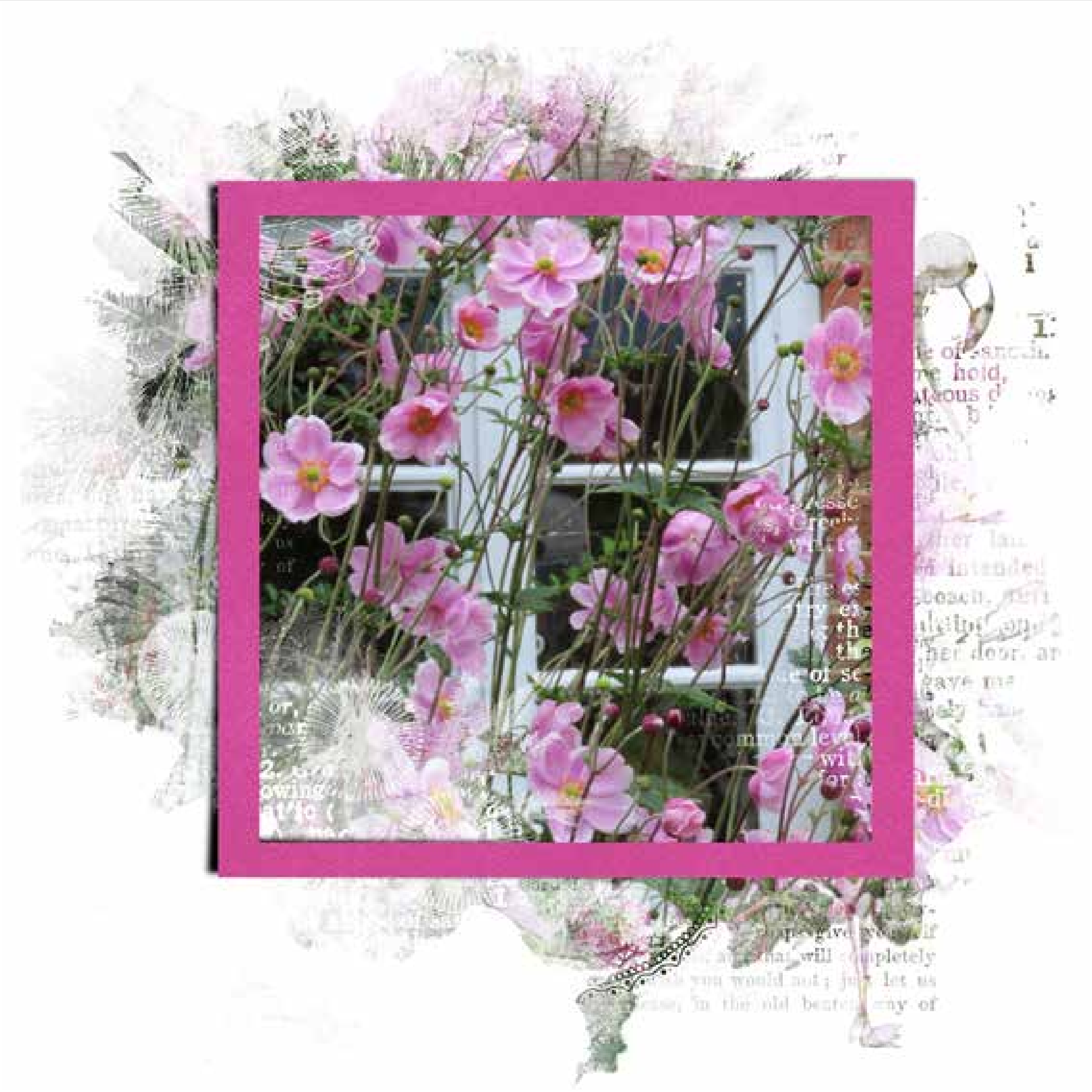

Trish Hoskin - Pretty In Pink

artists DOWN UNDER
Australia and New Zealand

Welcome to the December edition of Artists Down Under.

Not long now until the Big Jolly Fellow arrives with all of his cheer, bringing happiness and joy to most of us, lets also be aware of those less fortunate and help to keep an eye out on them.
It is also a time for holidays, so if you are travelling away, please remember to stay safe.

Our artists have put together for you another magazine full of their festive cheer, so grab a drink, settle down and browse through another superb edition of the talented work of our artists, along with all of our regular featured articles.

From all of our members of Artists Down Under, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year. Thank you for all the love, support and encouragement you have given our artists and for supporting our magazine. Without you it would not be what it is today.

Stay safe and enjoy your festivities.

Pam Henderson

Backgrounds: Foxy Squirrel
Laitha's Designs - Jai Johnson - White Lane Studio
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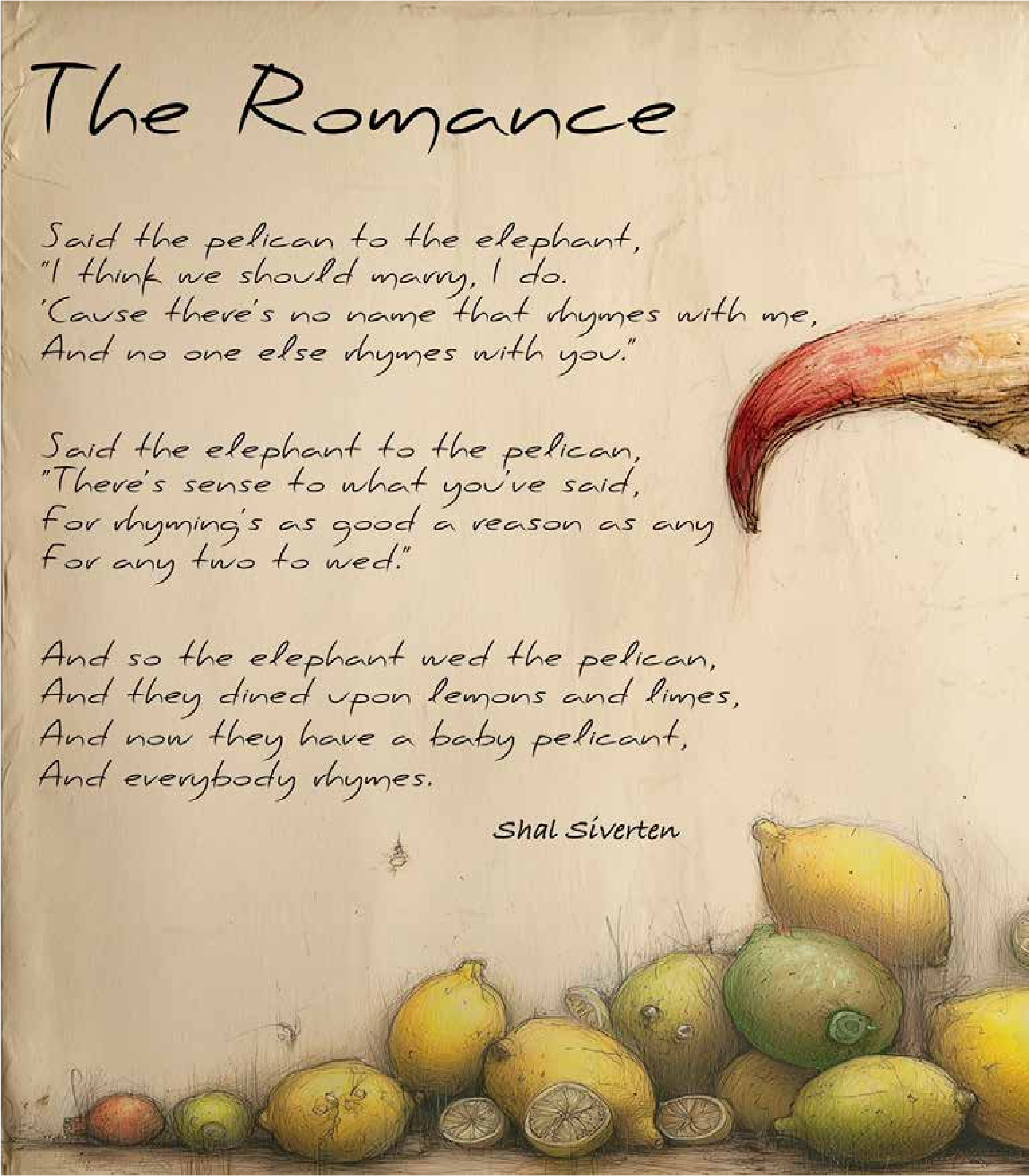
HTTPS://PROPHOTOSHOPARTISTRY.COM

- Beginner through Advanced
- Photoshop OR Adobe Elements
- Huge Library of Bonus Content
- 60-Day Guarantee!

Image by: Meaghan Pryor, Photoshop Artistry Student

CATBEAGLE CREATIONS (AUSTRALIA)

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artists-3/lynsey-stirland-mitchell/



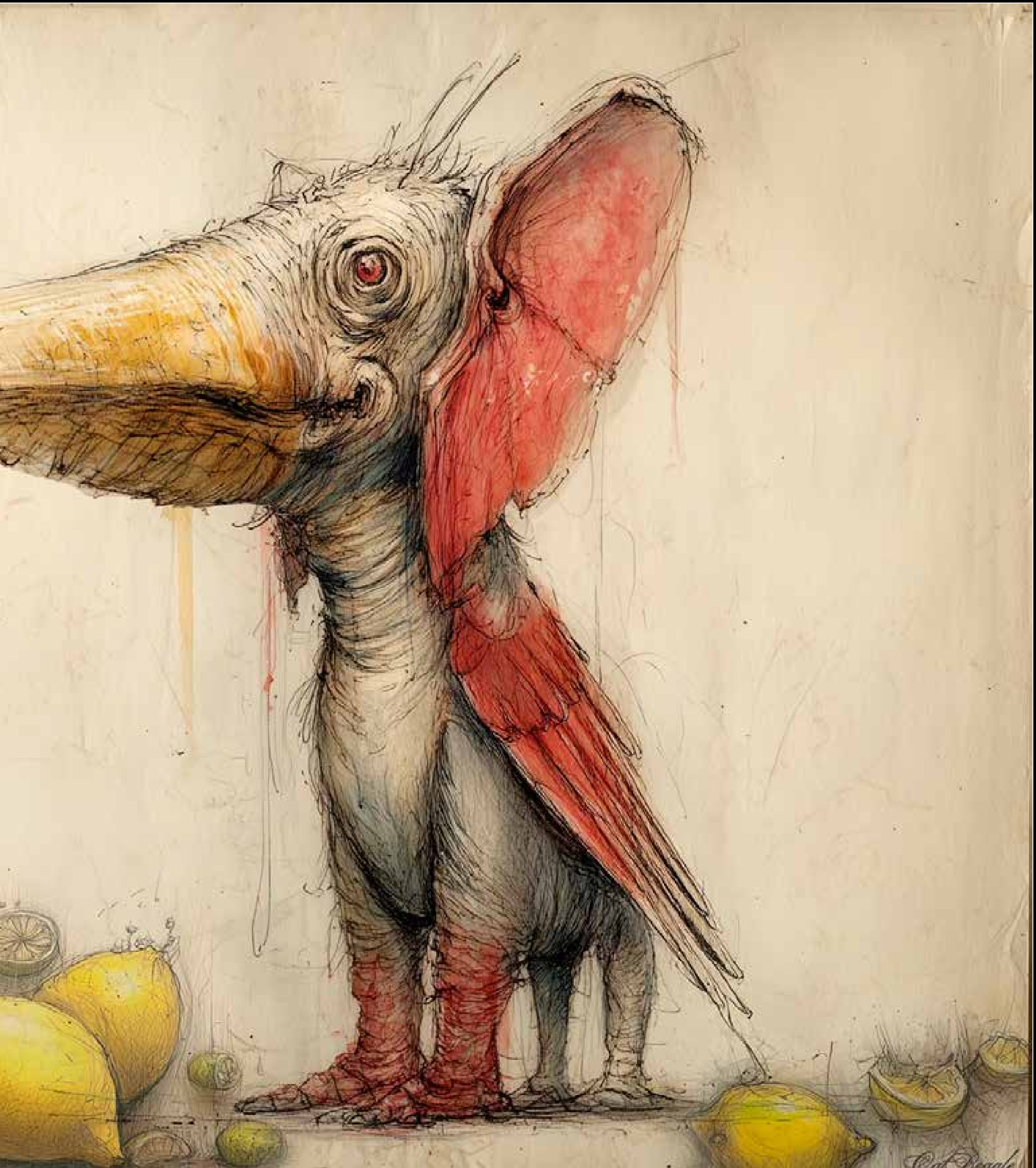
The Romance

Said the pelican to the elephant,
"I think we should marry, I do.
'Cause there's no name that rhymes with me,
And no one else rhymes with you."

Said the elephant to the pelican,
"There's sense to what you've said,
For rhyming's as good a reason as any
For any two to wed."

And so the elephant wed the pelican,
And they dined upon lemons and limes,
And now they have a baby pelicant,
And everybody rhymes.

Shal Siverten

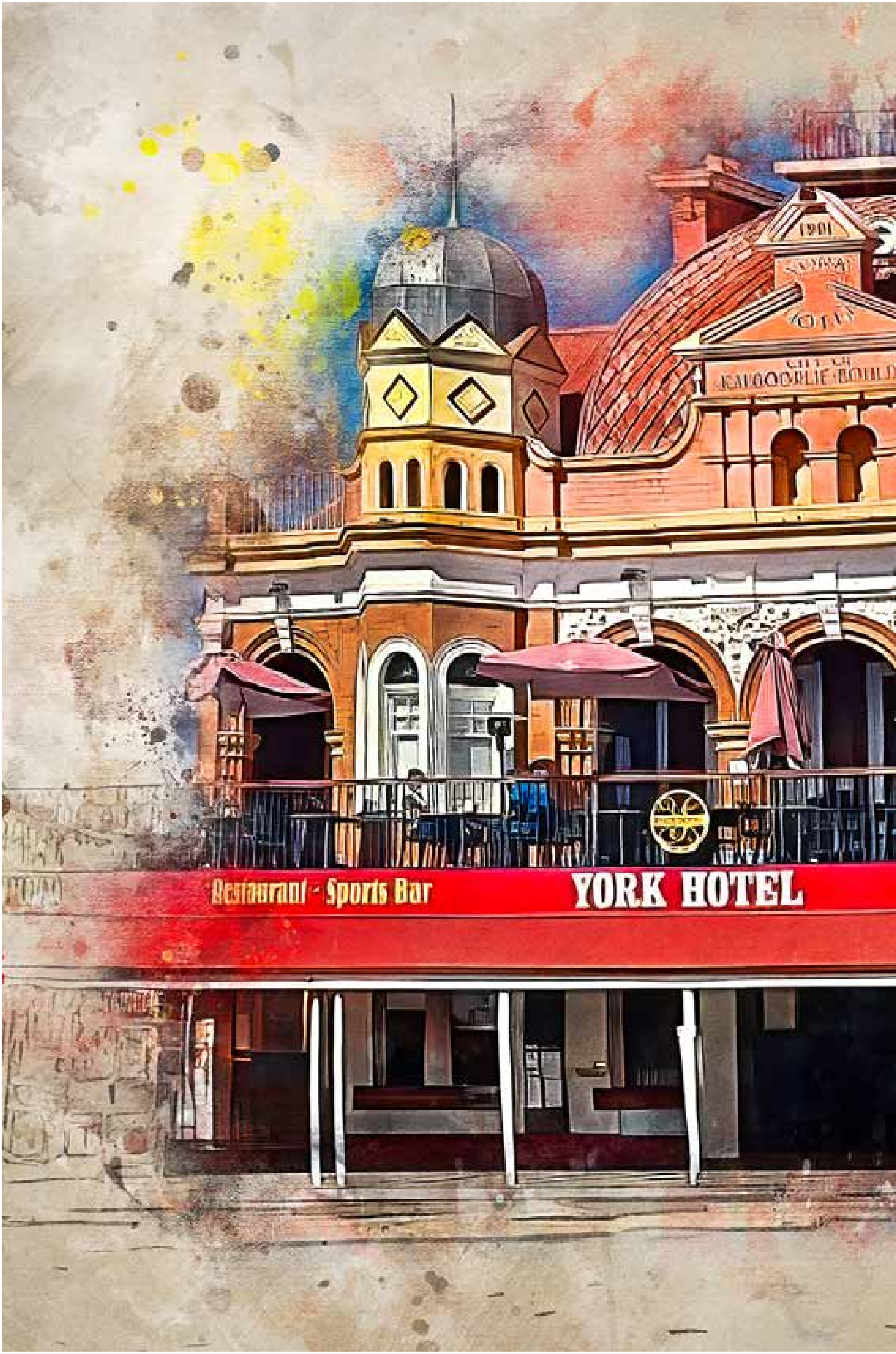


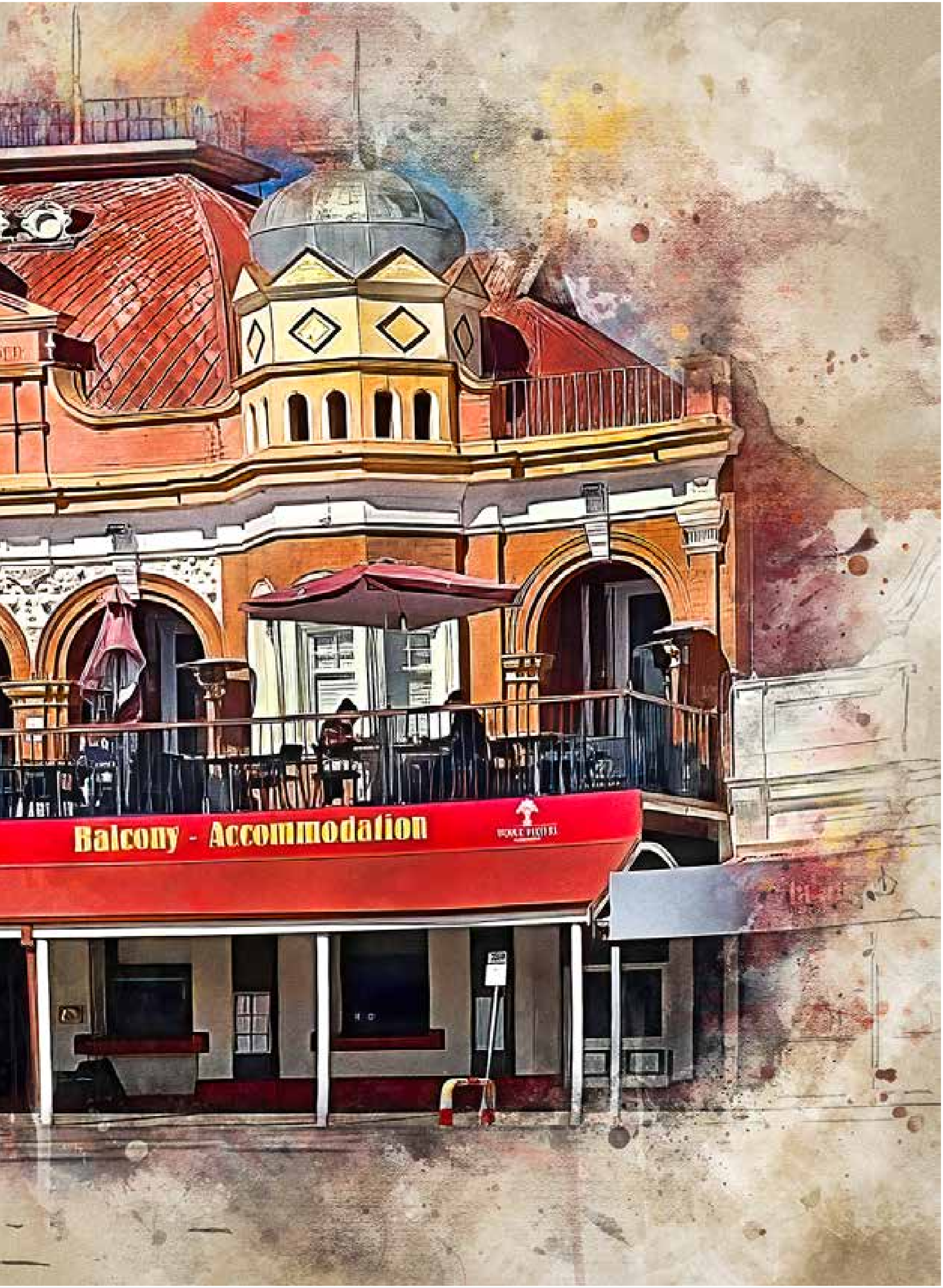
THE ROMANCE

GEORGE KONCZ (AUSTRALIA)

http://www.artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-2/george-koncz/

http://georgekonczphotography.com/


Restaurant - Sports Bar
YORK HOTEL
1901
KALGOORLIE BOULD

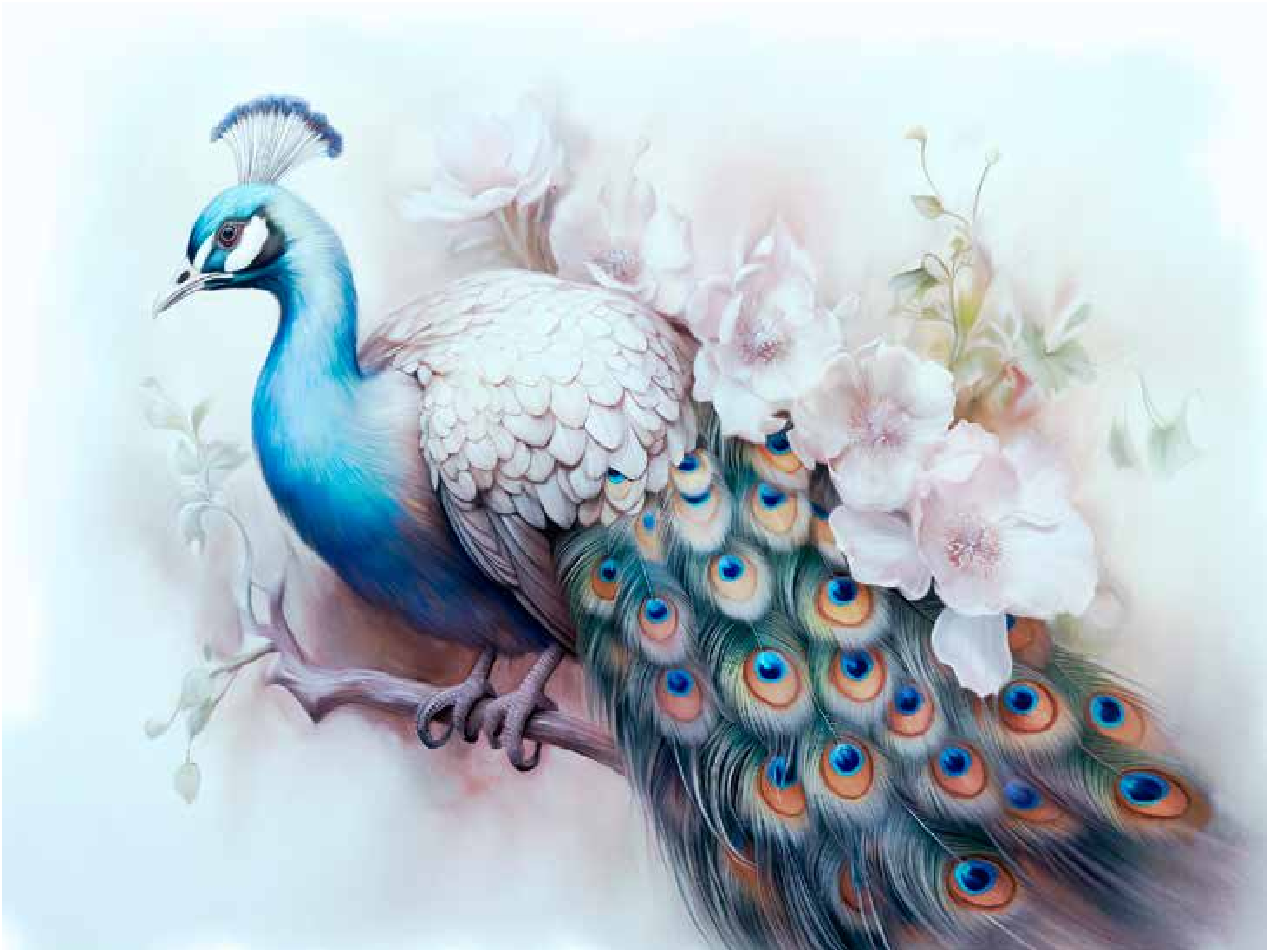

Balcony - Accommodation

YORK HOTEL, KALGOORLIE

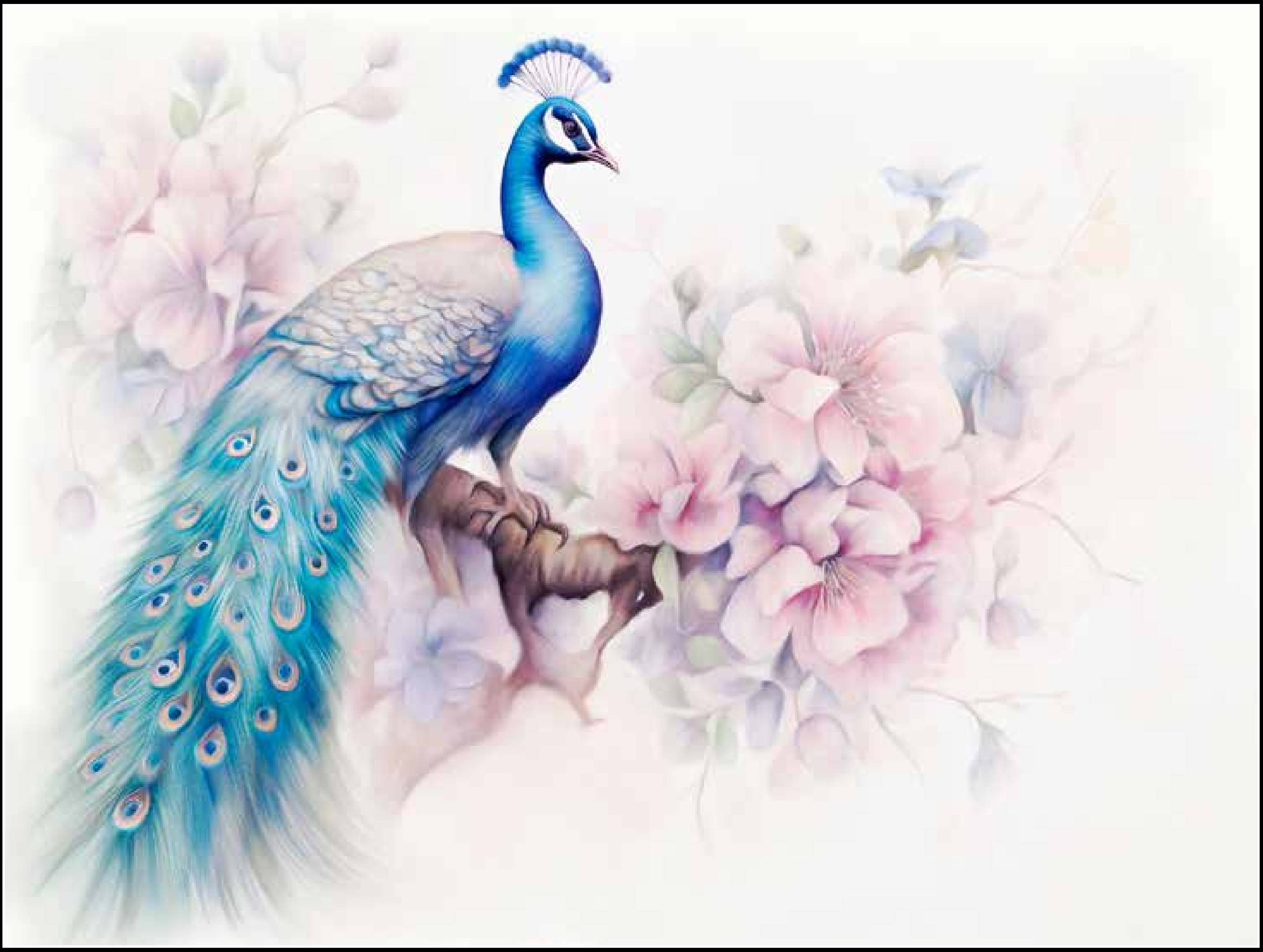
JULIE POWELL (AUSTRALIA)

https://www.juliepowellphoto.com/

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-2/julie-powell/



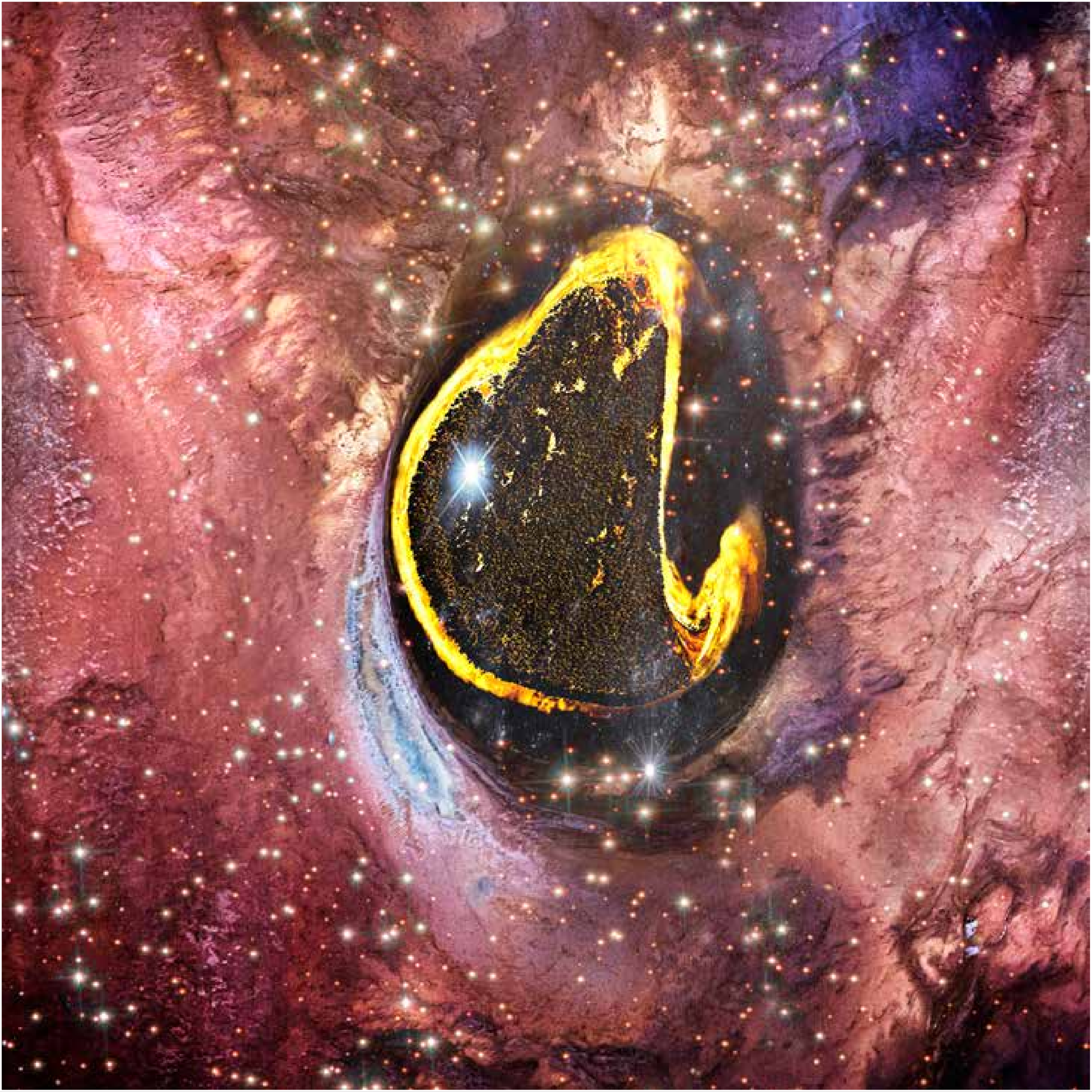
PEACOCK AND PEONIES



PEACOCK III

DENNIS RICKARD (AUSTRALIA)

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-2/dennis-rickard/



CREATION

artists down under

monthly achievements

artists down under facebook page

The Artists Down Under Public Facebook page has been set up to allow the artists in the group to showcase their work and to enable them to share promotional information about themselves, e.g. exhibitions, awards etc...

You can find the Artists Down Under Public Facebook page at this address;
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ArtistsDownUnder/

So, if you are an artist in the group, don’t forget to regularly share your work and information here, and to let your friends and family know about the page if they are interested in viewing the latest art and news from the group.

If you are a reader of the magazine who does not have access to the page, please click the link above and request to join. When you request to join you will be asked to answer three simple questions that will allow us to determine if you are an eligible artist who may wish to join the group and therefore be able to post on the page, or a member of the public who can view, comment and like the work on the page. **It’s a great place to see some great art from this vibrant group every day!**

Three ADU members receive a special gift

Our very good Awake friends Teddi Rutschman of Foxey Squirrel and Diane Stafford from WhiteLaneStudio continue to give gifts as a reward for members of the Artists Down Under group who contribute to the ADU Facebook page by regularly posting their artworks and supporting other members with their comments.

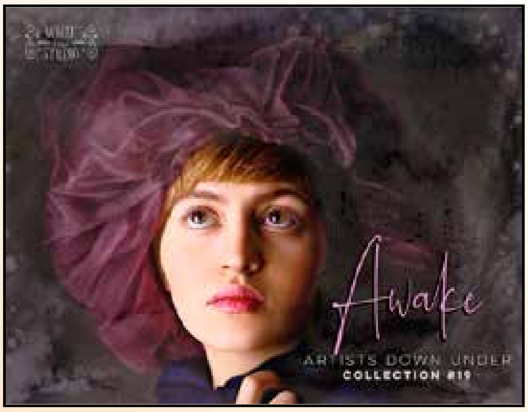
Teddi, from Virginia, USA, is well known for her fantastic sets of digital designer backgrounds, masks and all kinds of wonderful elements ready for designers to add to or build a wondrous creation.

Teddi Rutshman can be found at
http://www.oscraps.com/shop/Foxeysquirrel

One artist will receive a Foxey Squirrel Kit

Diane Stafford from Chester, UK, designs Photoshop textures and overlays for photo artists and photographers to use in their digital artworks. Diane has created another special kit just for Artists Down Under for the month of DECEMBER.

Two artists will receive a Diane kit each.
Diane Stafford can be found at
https://whitelanestudio.co.uk/biolinks



The DECEMBER lucky winners are

Foxey Squirrel Kit

- Penny de Jong

Diane Stafford (WhiteLaneStudio)
Texture & Overlay Kit

- Hemant Kogekar
- Cushla Moorhead

living the photo artistic life

https://issuu.com/thephotoartisticlife/docs/living_the_photo_artistic_life_-_issue_no._128?fr=sZTllNDg0NDE1MDQ

Congratulations to the
following artists for having
their images chosen to appear in the
International magazine
“Living The Photo Artistic Life”.

CatBeagle Creations
- Soundwaves And Still Waters
- March For Equality

Christina Brunton
- Blacky
- Caramel

Rosa Perry
- Gathered In Grace

George Koncz
- Le Meridien Bali
- Tranquil Location Vienna Austria

Jenny Davidson
- Cornucopia

Maureen Maxwell
- Her Eyers
- A Woman’s Beauty Is in Her Soul

Ilona Abou-Zolof
- Shared Harvest
- Peace Within

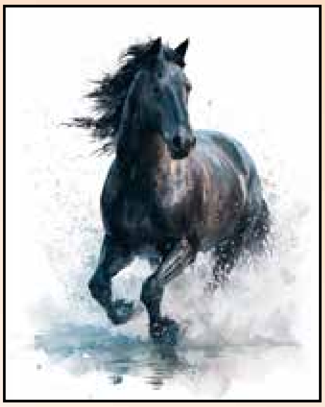
Sandra Dann
- Time Travel

Penny de Jong
- A Whispering Of Moths
- This Is Magic

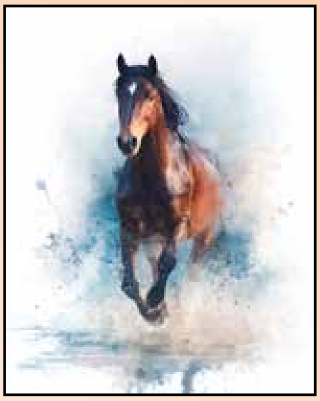
Kim Ricci
- Pulse Of Defiance

Sue Masterson
- Elfin Serenity
- The Performance

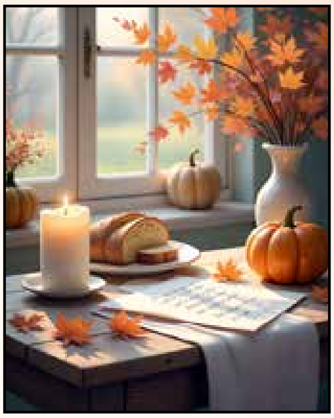
Louise Smith
- Fearing Wandering



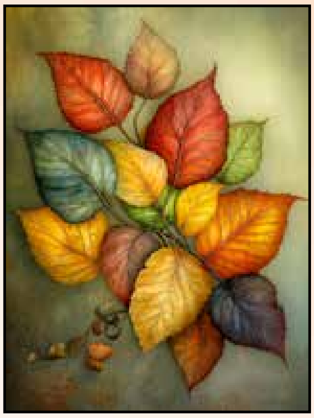
Christina Brunton
- Blacky



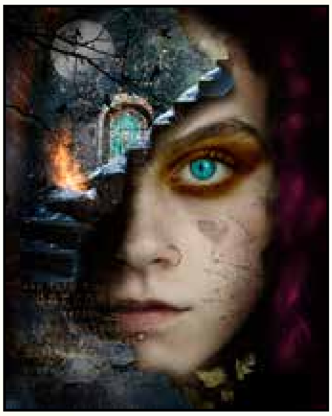
Christina Brunton
- Caramel



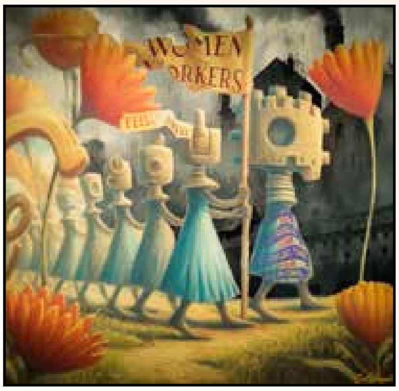
Ilona Abou-Zolof
- Peace Within



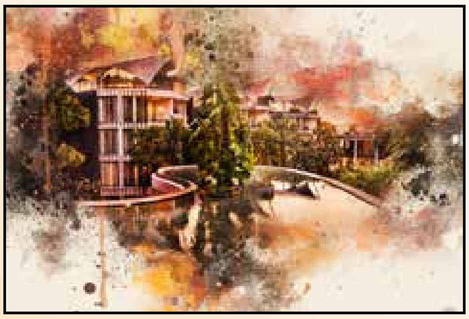
Rosa Perry
- Gathered In Grace



Louise Smith
- Fearing Wandering

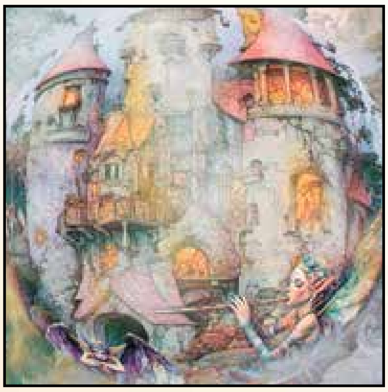


CatBeagle Creations
- March For Equality

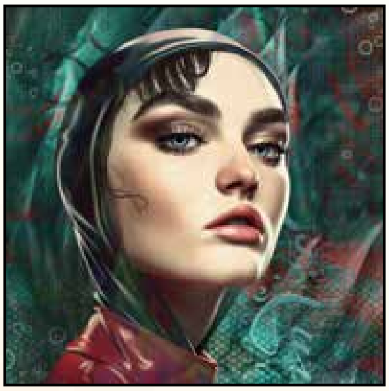


George Koncz
- Le Meridien Bali

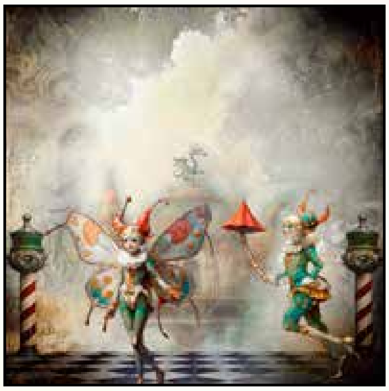
living the photo artistic life



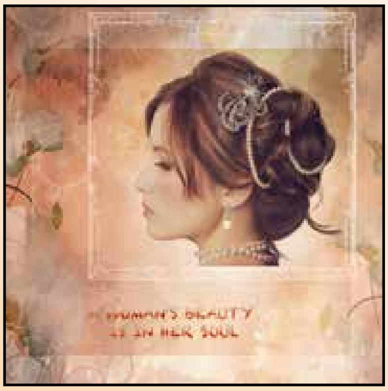
Sue Masterson
- Elfin Serenity



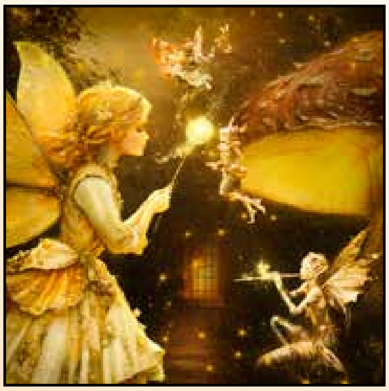
Kim Ricci
- Pulse Of Defiance



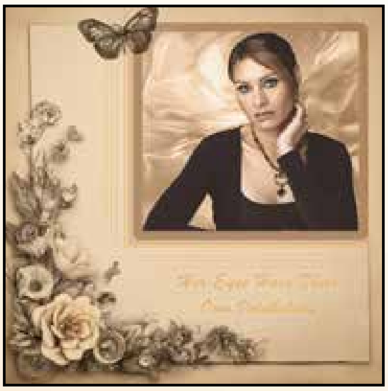
Sue Masterson
- The Performance



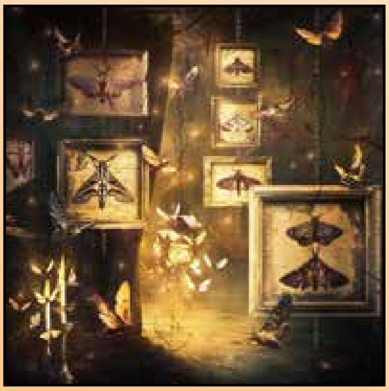
Maureen Maxwell
- A Woman's Beauty Is In Her Soul



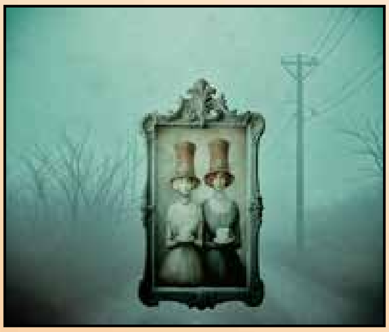
Penny de Jong
- This Is Magic



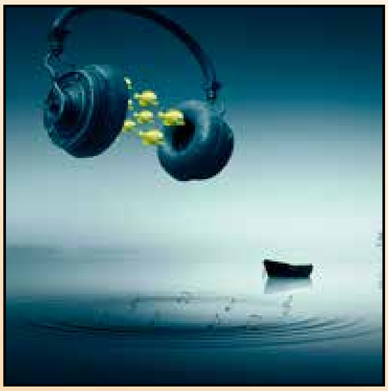
Maureen Maxwell
- Her Eyes



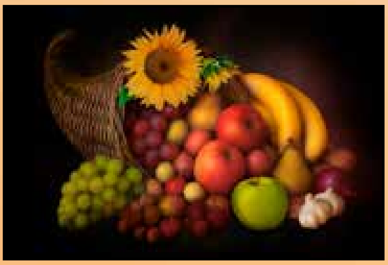
Penny de Jong
- A Whispering Of Moths



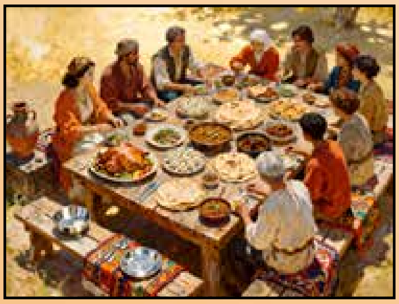
Sandra Dann
- Time Travel



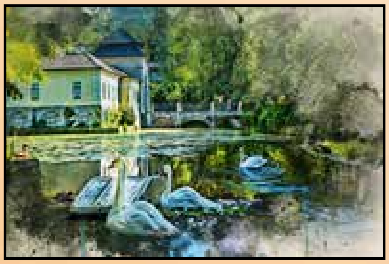
CatBeagle Creations
- Soundwaves And Still Waters



Jenny Davidson
- Cornucopia



Ilona Abou-Zolof
- Shared Harvest

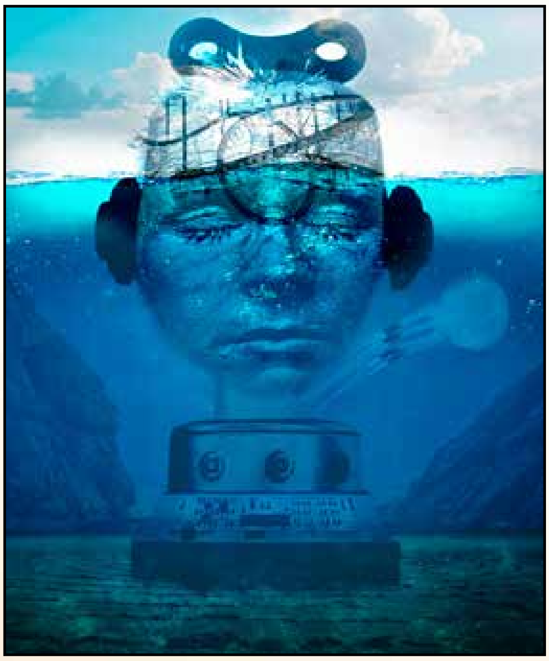


George Koncz
- Tranquil Location Vienna Austria

shift art

November 2025
Theme
“Robots”

https://shiftart.com/shift-art-photoshop-challenge-results-november-2025/

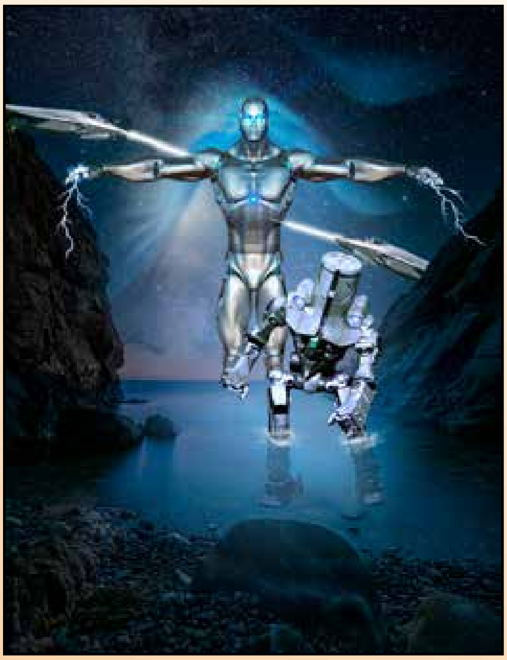


Congratulations goes to

Bev Terawskyj
Prue Wright

ALSO
NOTICED

Bev Terawskyj
-Awaiting Pickup

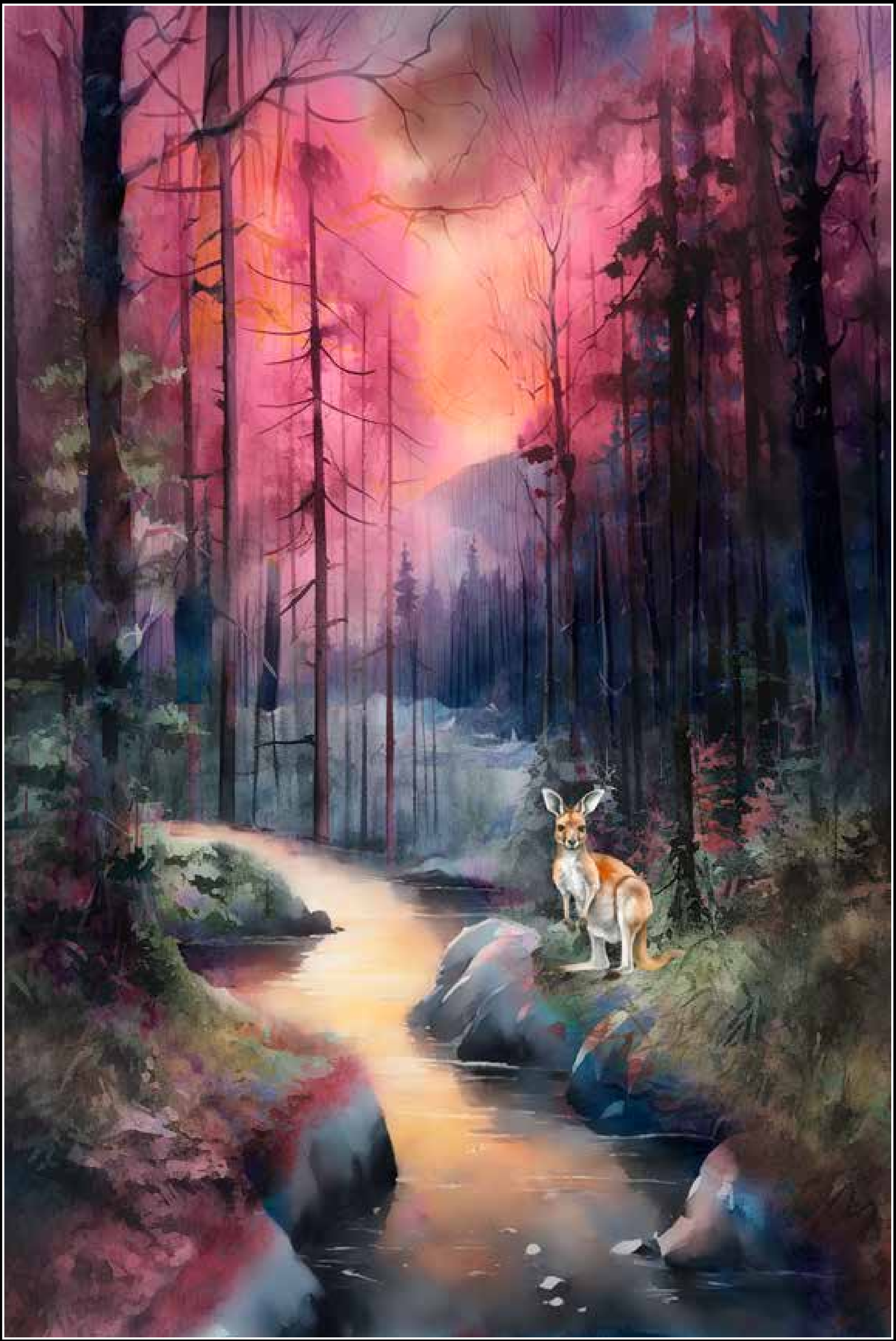


ALSO
NOTICED

Prue Wright
- Invasion

PAM HENDERSON (AUSTRALIA)

http://www.artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-4/pam-henderson/

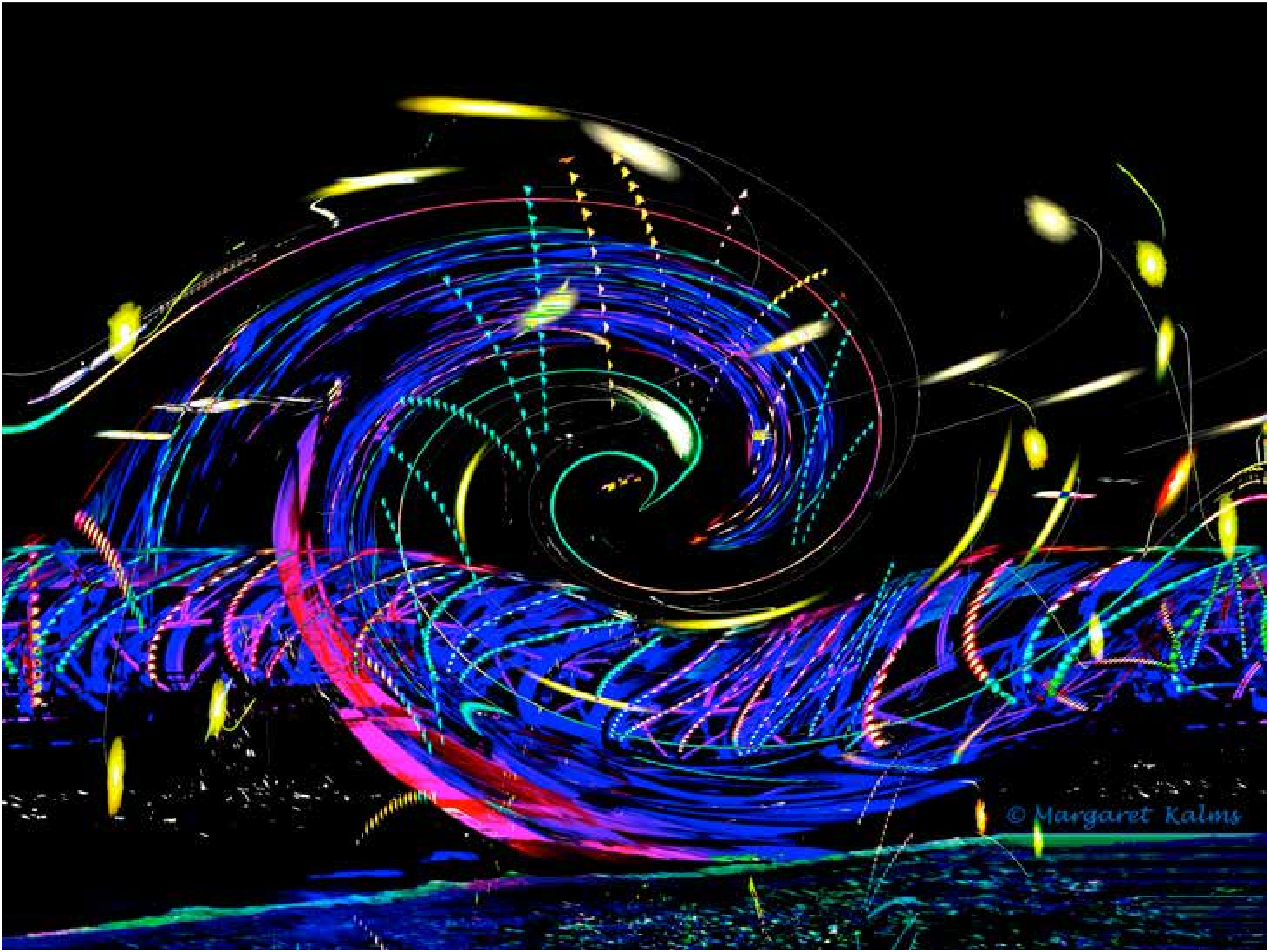


THE STREAM

MARGARET KALMS (AUSTRALIA)

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-3/margaret-kalms/

http://artofwoman.com.au

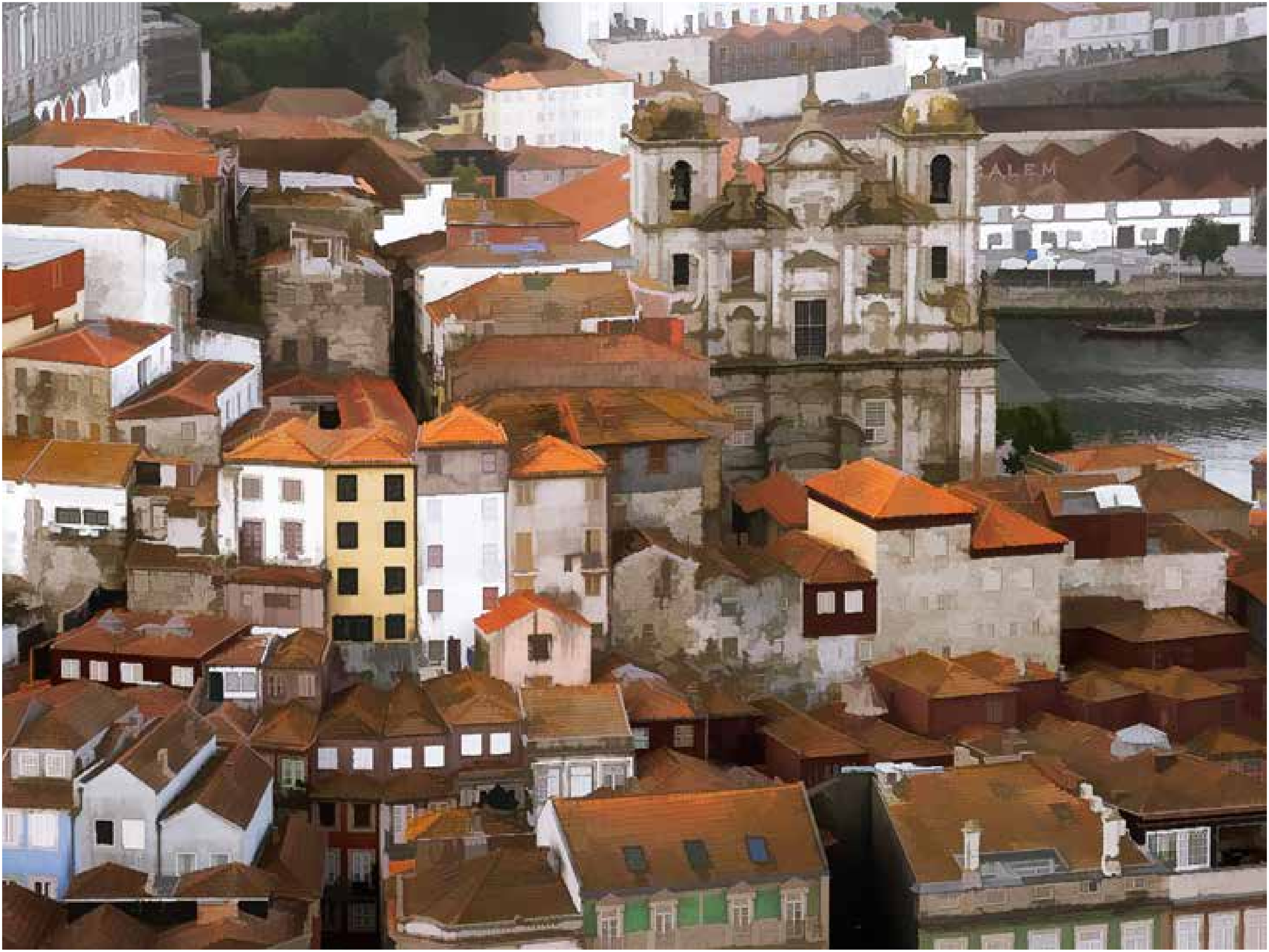

© Margaret Kalms

AUCKLAND HARBOUR BRIDGE TSUNAMI

HEMANT KOGEKAR (AUSTRALIA)

https://photos.kogekar.com/

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-2/hemant-kogekar/



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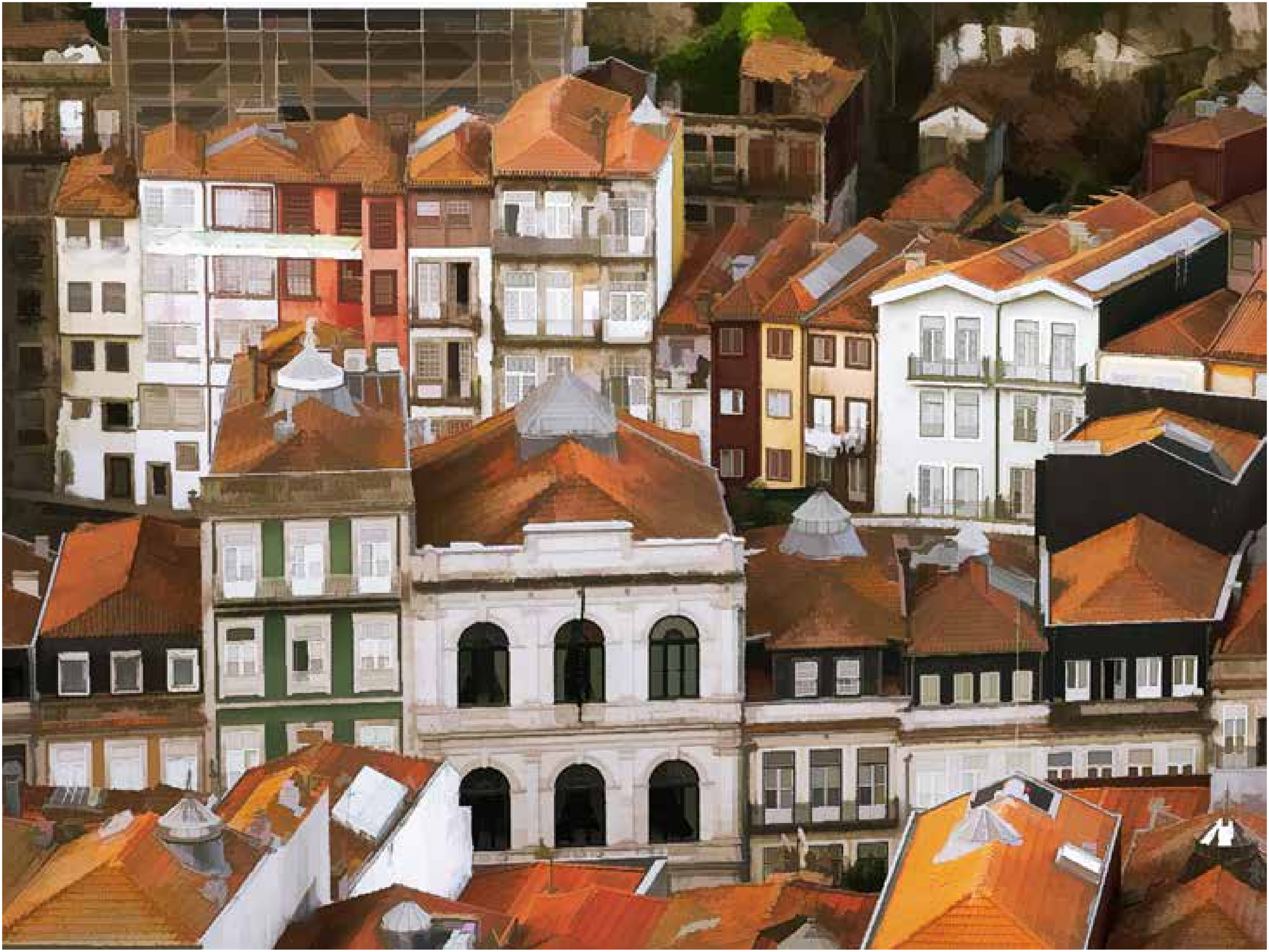
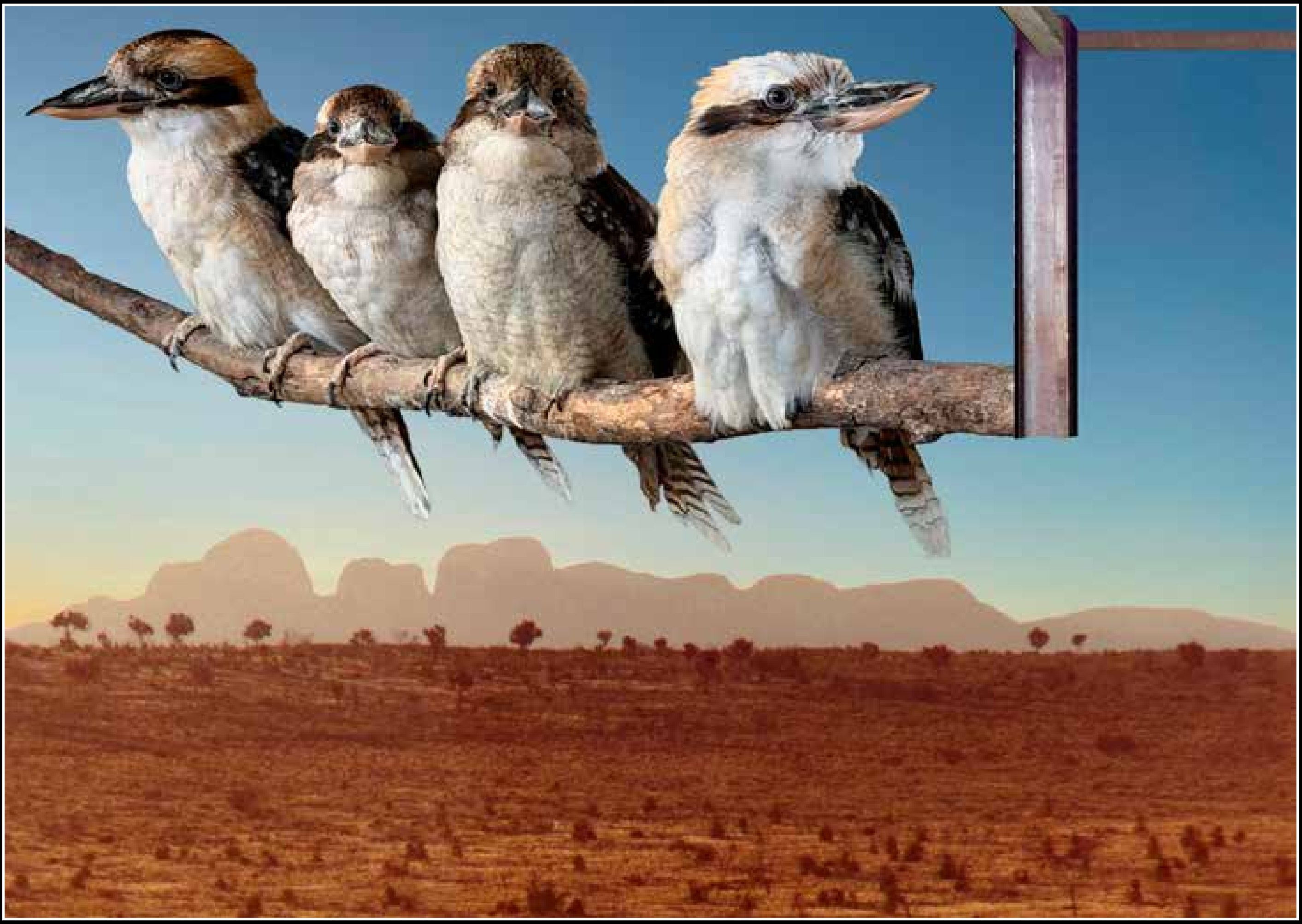


PORTO IMPRESSION II

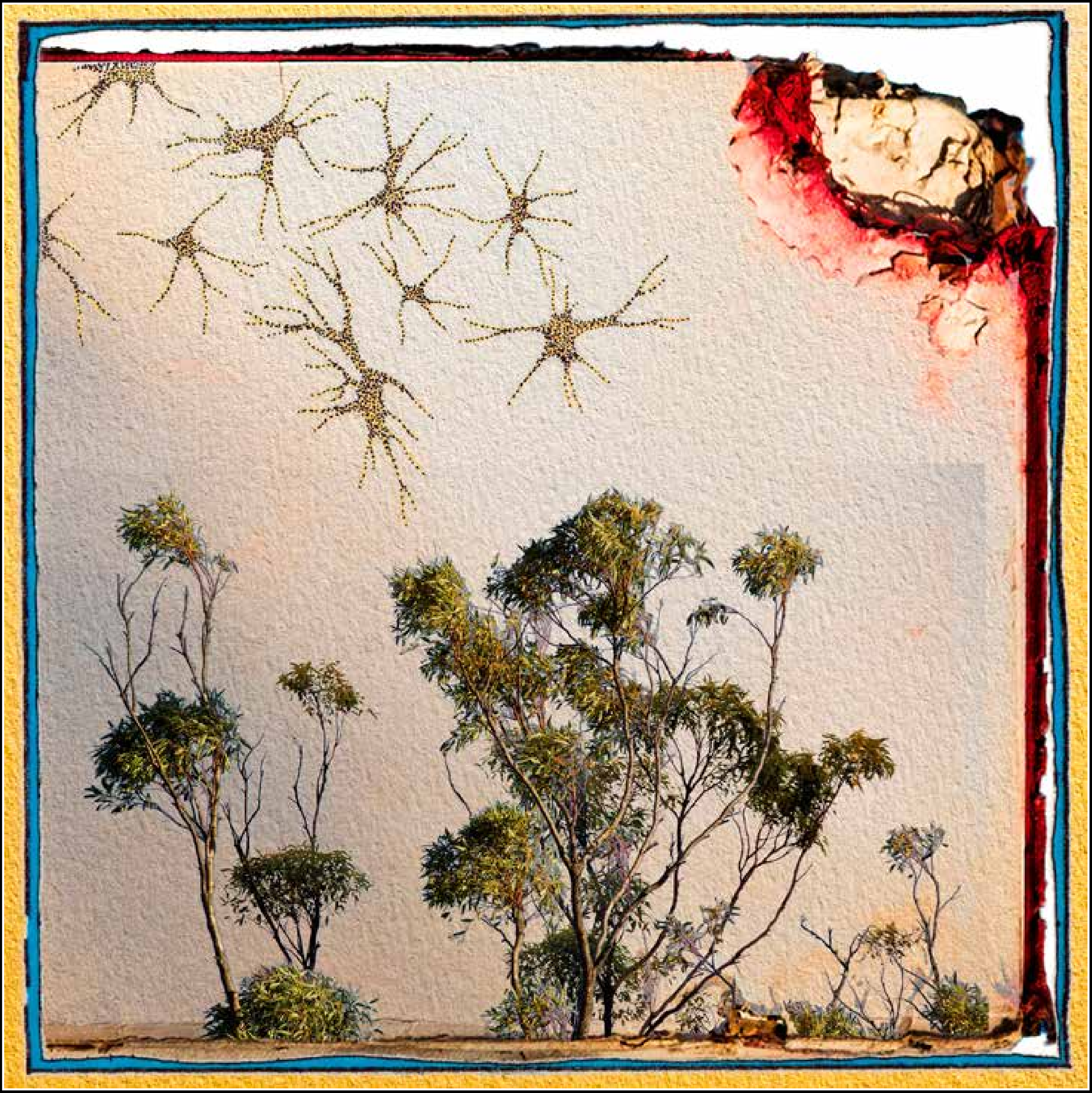
COLIN CAMPBELL (AUSTRALIA)

https://colincampbell.myportfolio.com

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artists-1/colin-campbell/



MANY HEADS

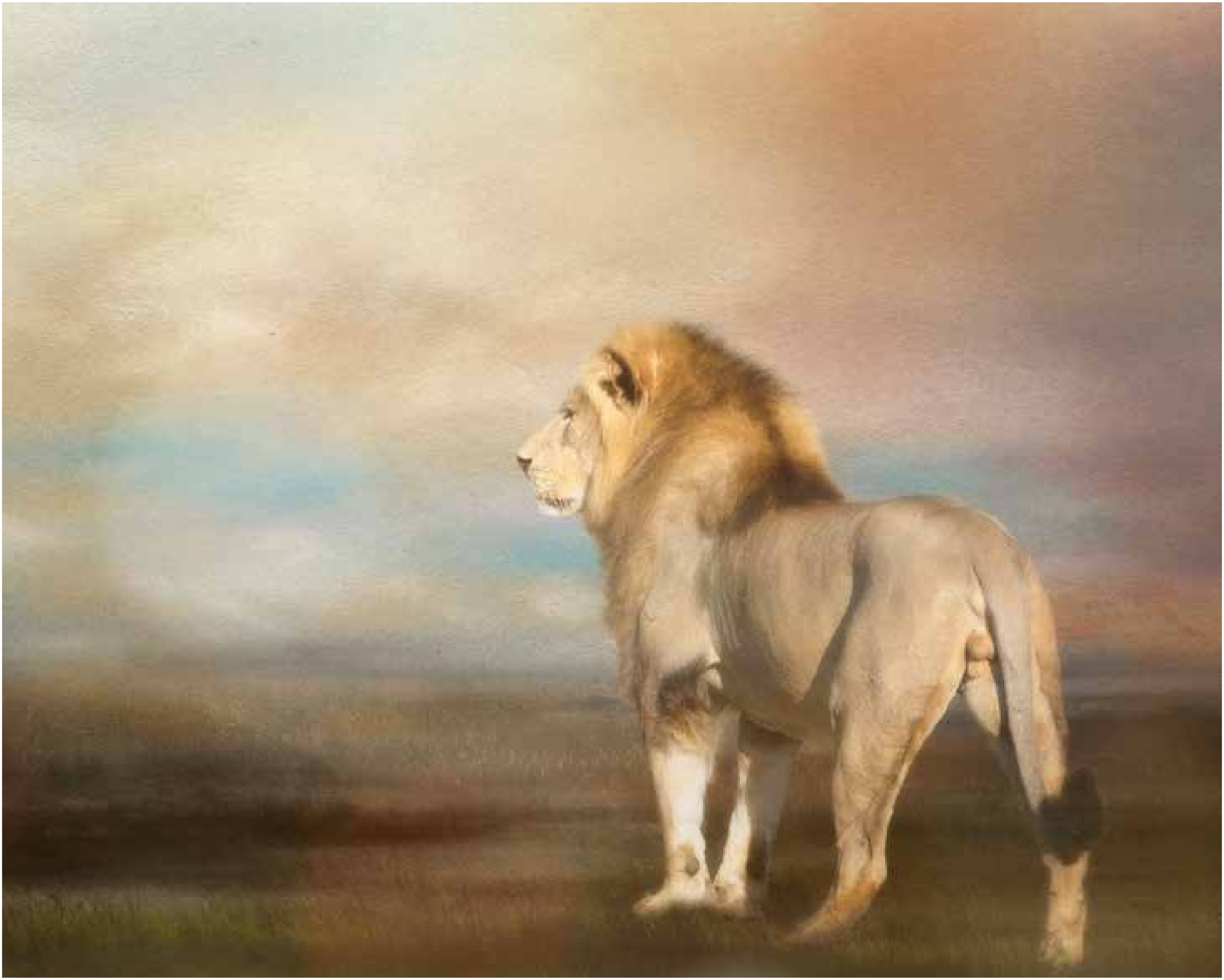


ORCHID INTERIORS

KAREN WAALWYK (AUSTRALIA)

https://www.flickr.com/photos/88165766@N05/

https://www.artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-3/karen-waalwyk/



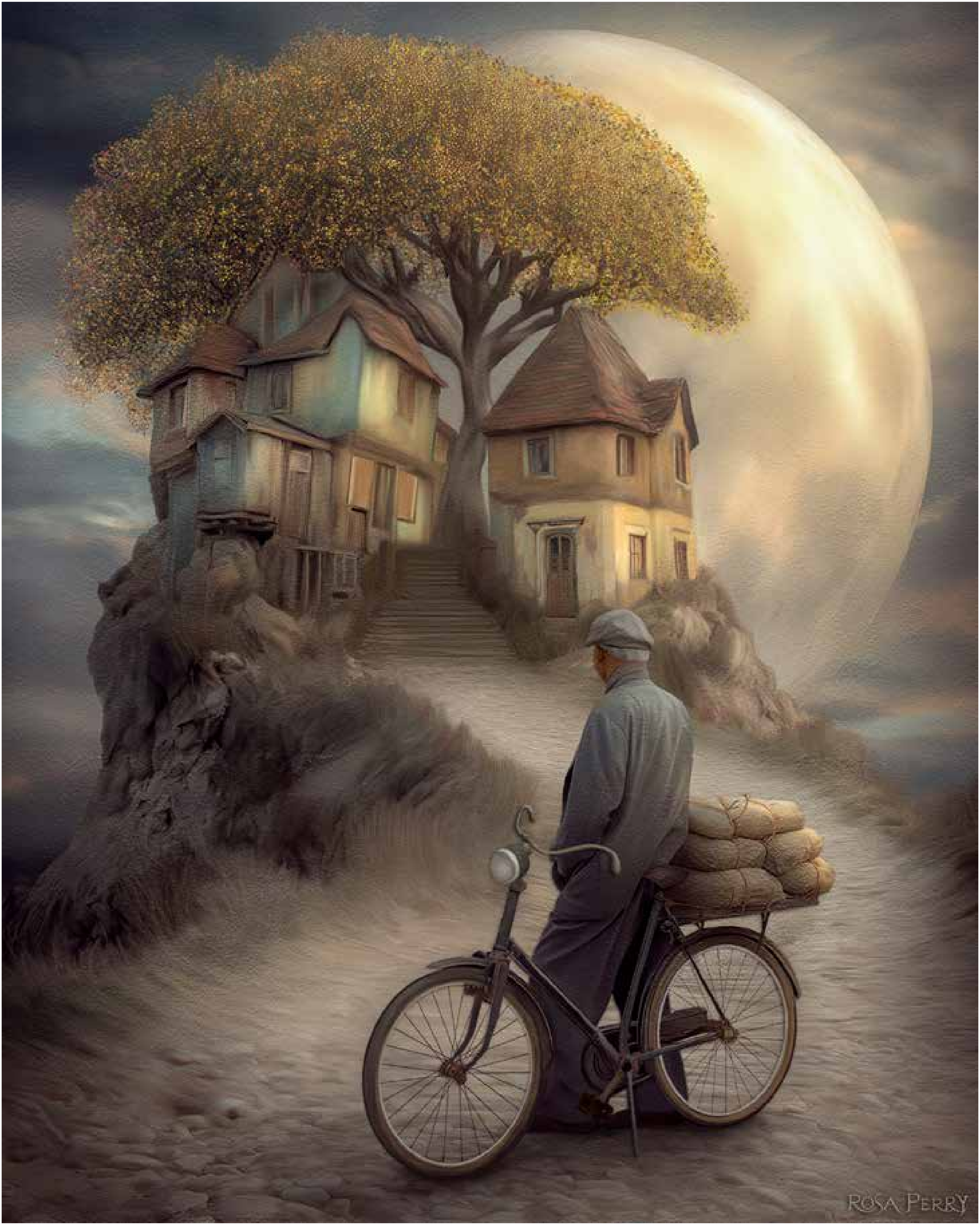
SAVANNAH LION

ART

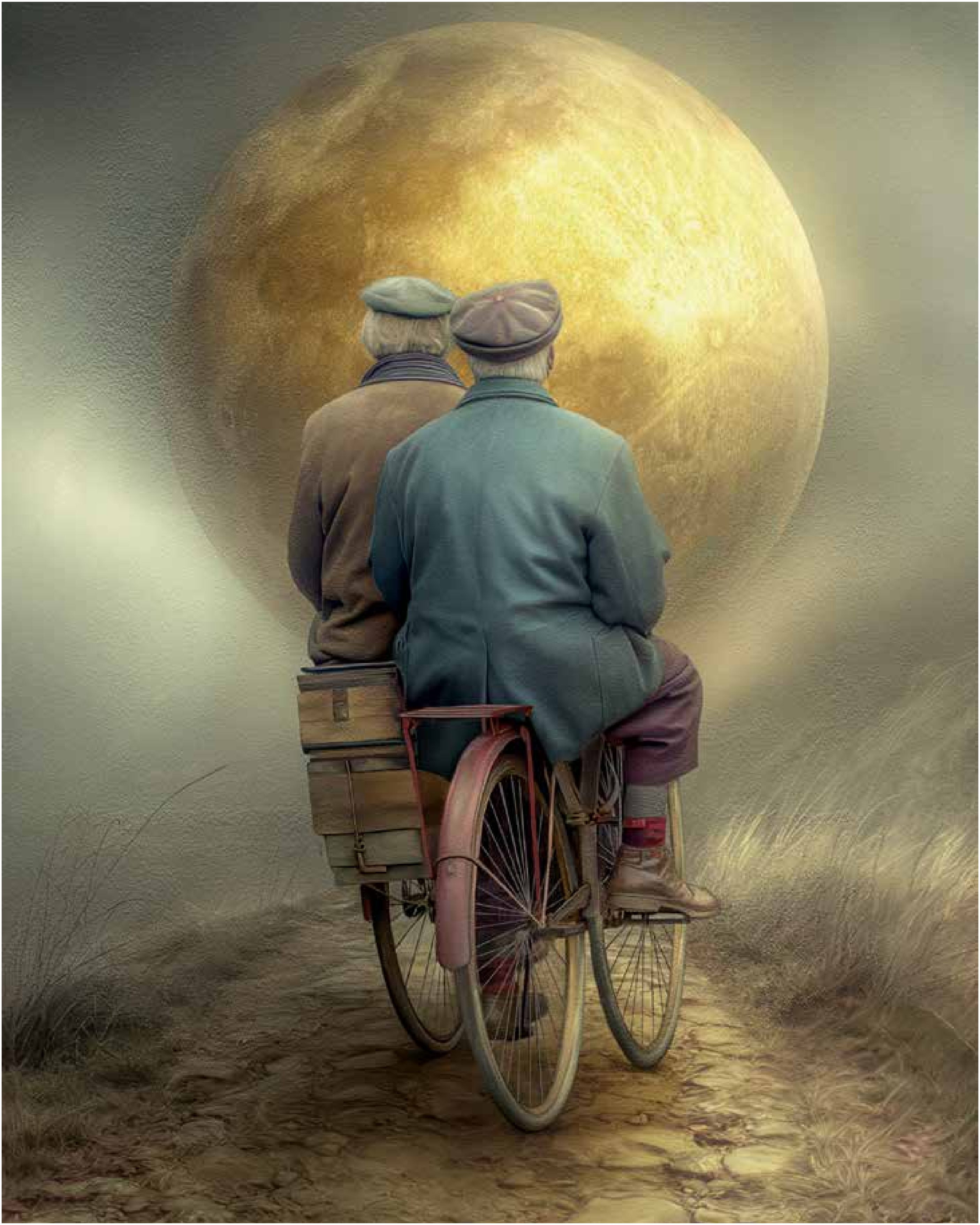
BY

ROSA PERRY

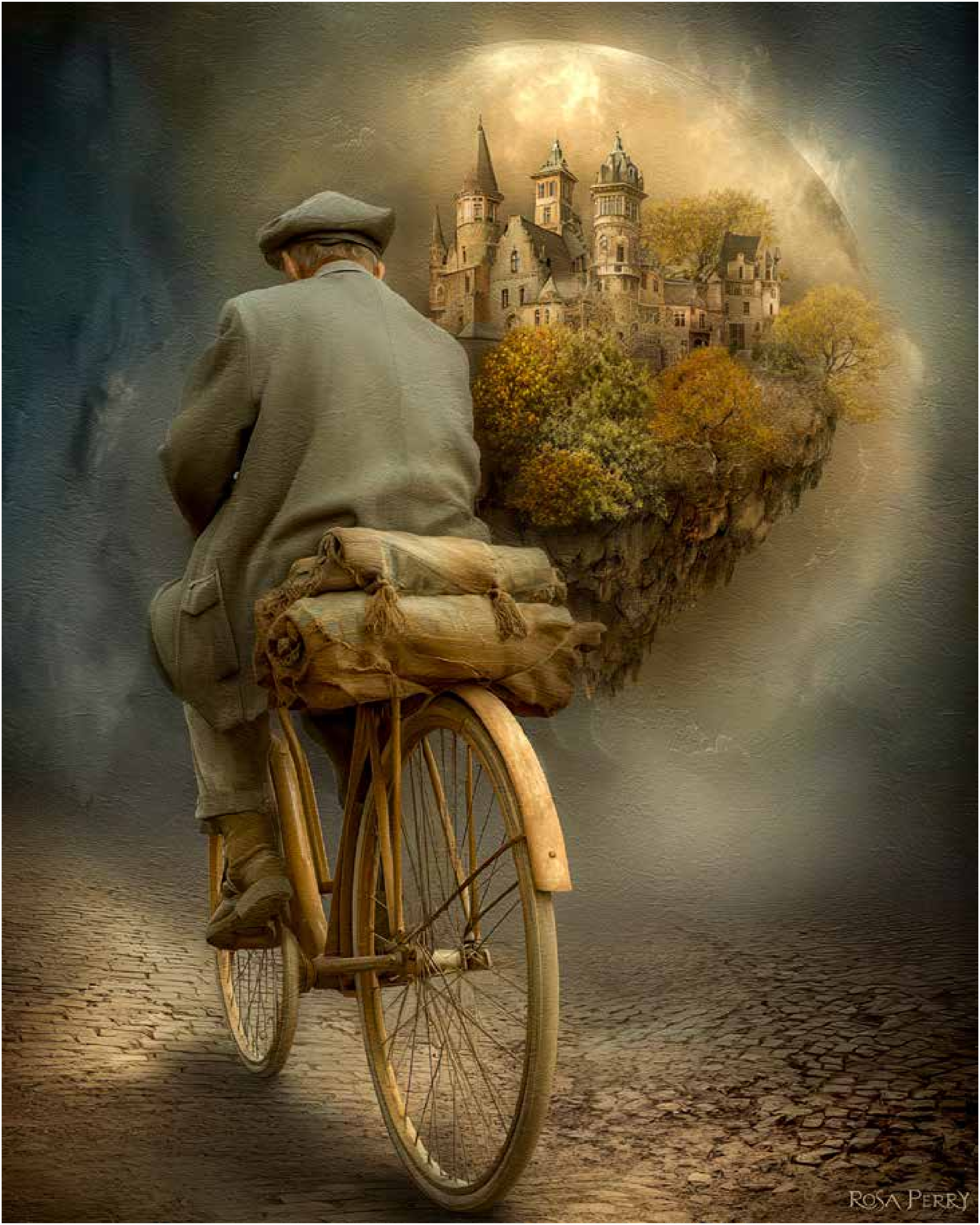
TIMELESS TRAVEL



THE LAST LOOK



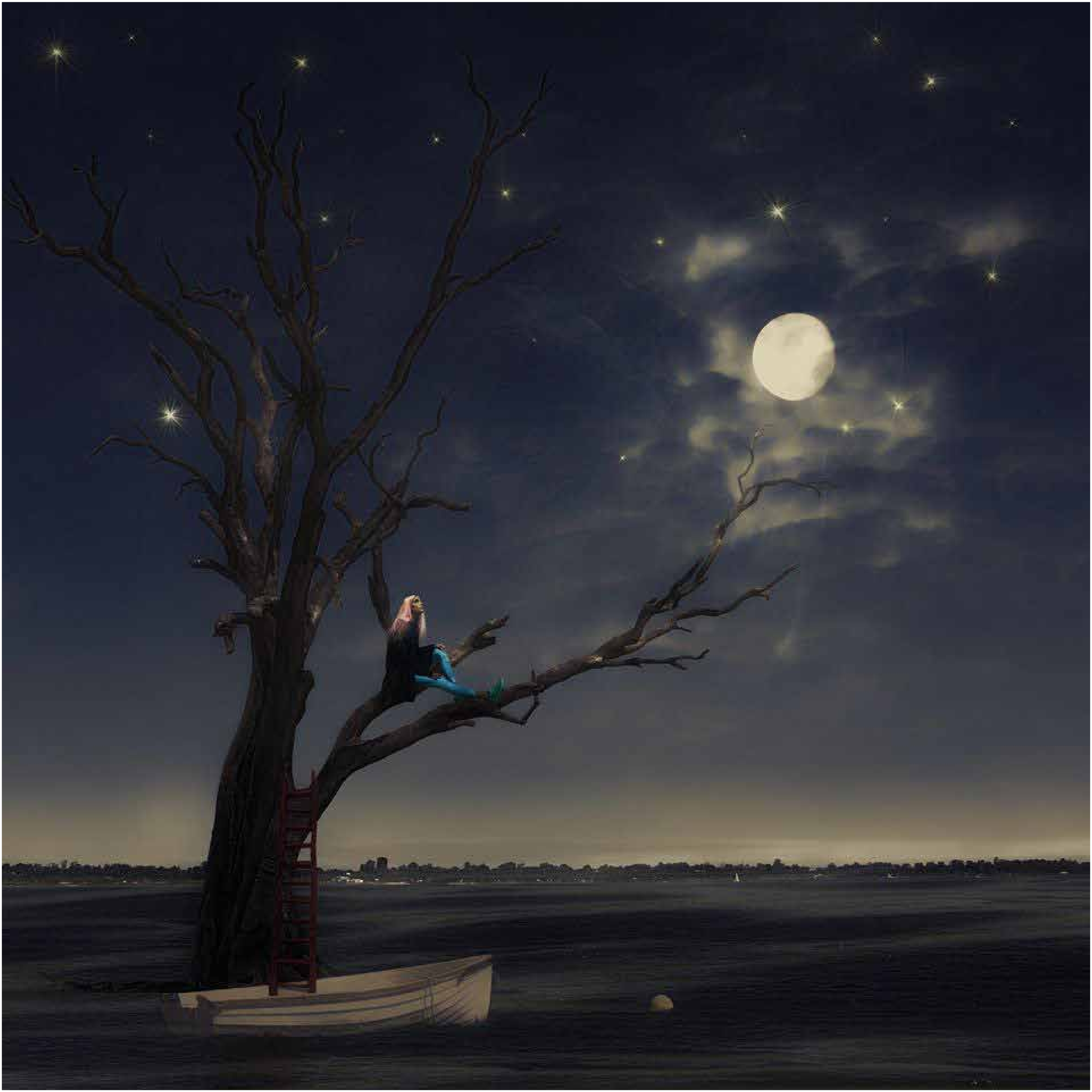
THE LAST MILE



TIMELESS TRANSPORT

KIM RICCI (AUSTRALIA)

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-3/kim-ricci/

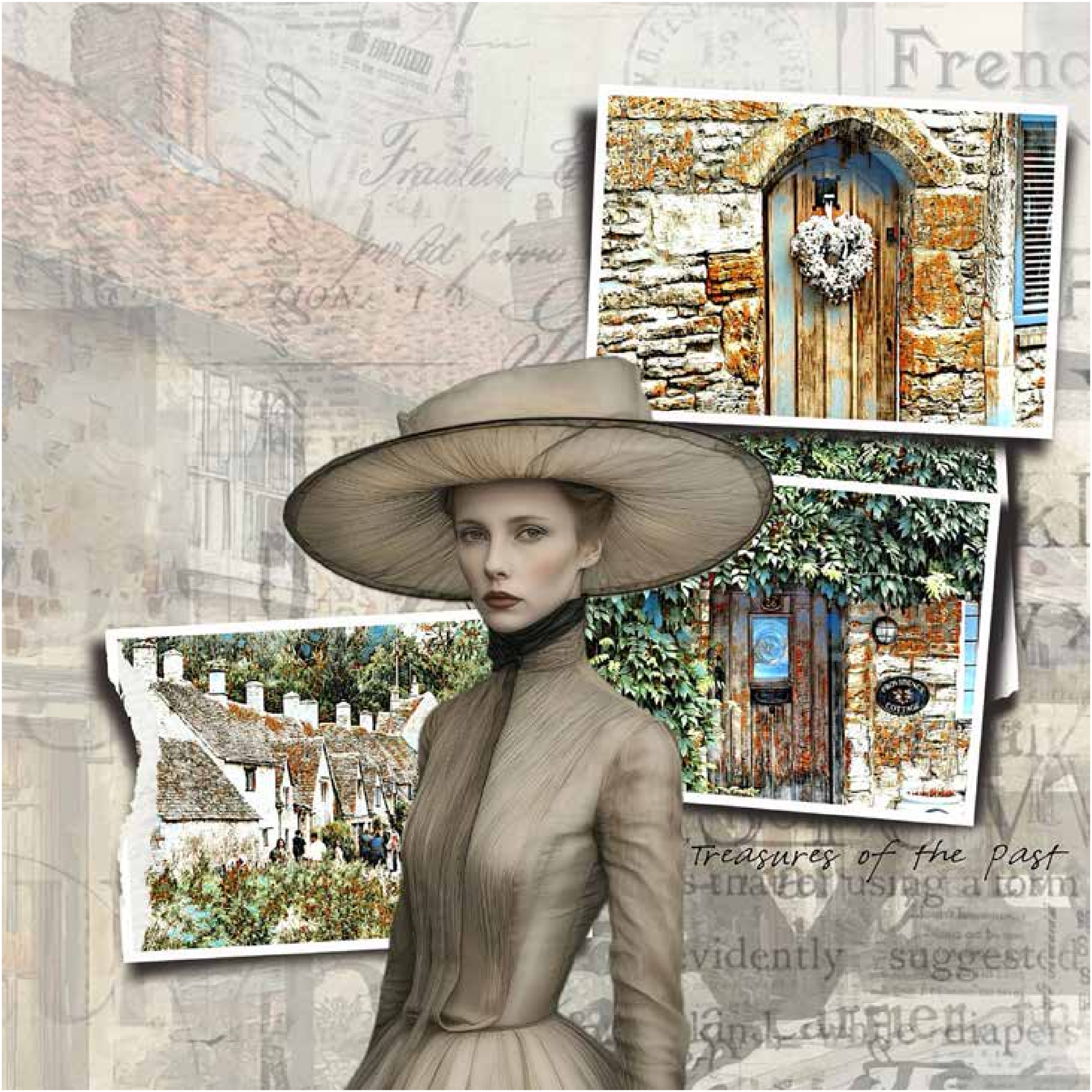


STARGAZING

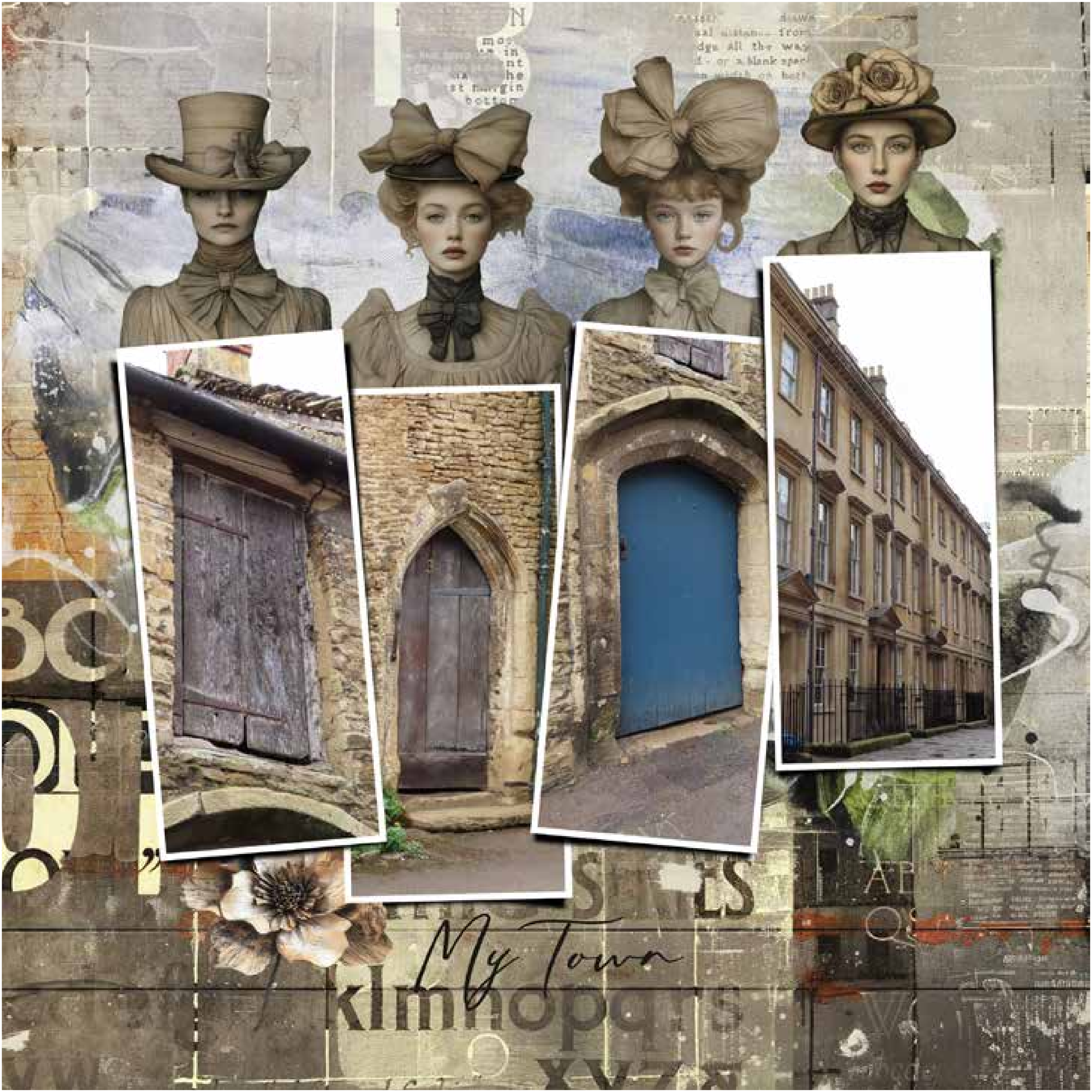
TRISH HOSKIN (AUSTRALIA)

https://trish-hoskin.myportfolio.com/

http://www.artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-4/trish-hoskin/

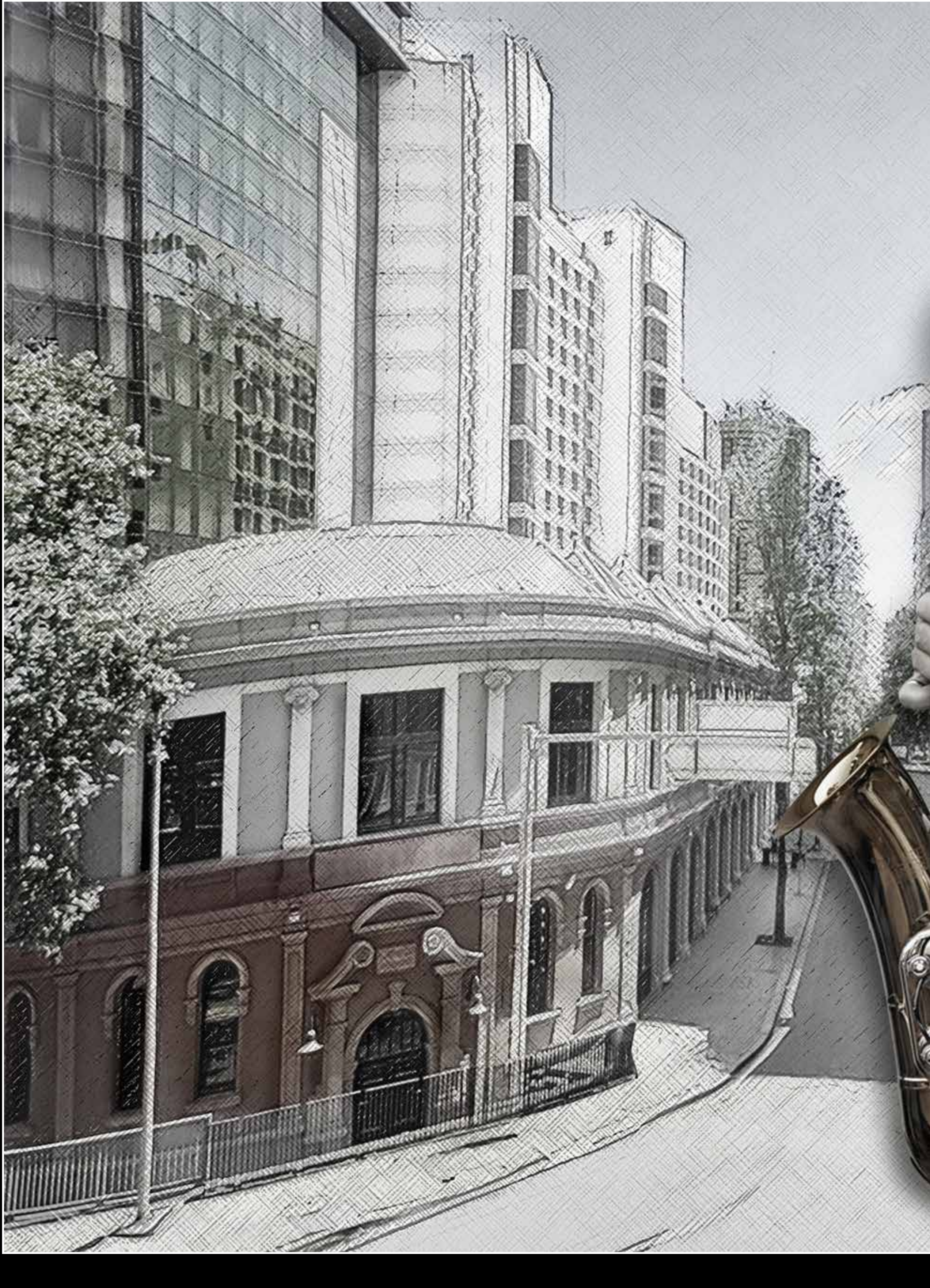

Treasures of the past

TREASURES OF THE PAST



MY TOWN

JENNY DAVIDSON (AUSTRALIA)



THE SAXOPHONE PLAYER

SOME PHOTOSHOP INSPIRATION

CREATING A DEPTH MAP LAYER MASK IN PHOTOSHOP

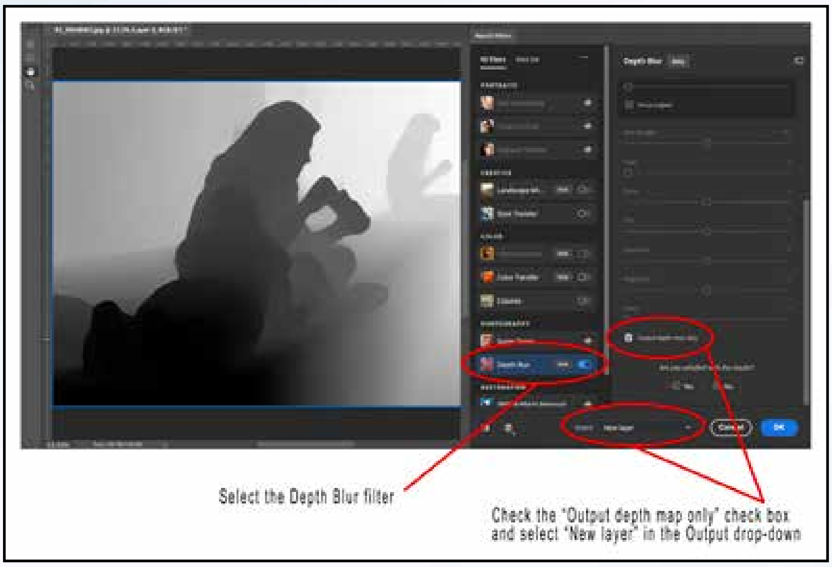
By Andrew Haysom

Have you ever wanted to create adjustments or run filters on your image in Photoshop that affect the background parts (or foreground parts) of your image more than the rest of the image? If so, then this article will show you how.

There is a hidden feature in Photoshop that will allow you to create a depth map that does precisely that. It is hidden away in one of the Photoshop Neural Filters.

Choose Filters / Neural Filters and then choose Depth Blur.

This filter is designed to let you blur the background (and make other adjustments) to your image.



Select the Depth Blur filter

Check the "Output depth map only" check box and select "New layer" in the Output drop-down

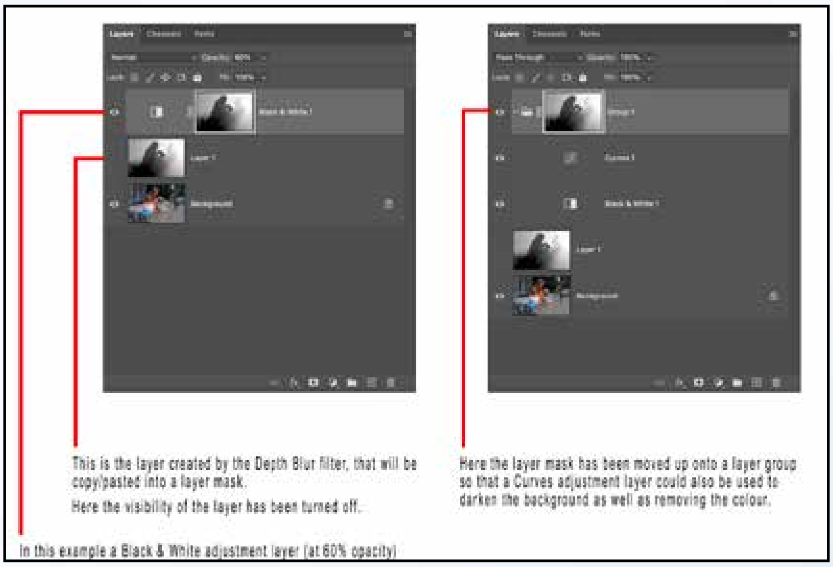
[Fig 1 – Using the Depth Blur Neural Filter to Create a Depth Map]

SOME PHOTOSHOP INSPIRATION (CONT .....)

Here though we are going to scroll down to the bottom of the Depth Blur sliders and we’re going to check the “Output depth map only” check box. You’ll notice your image now changes to a greyscale image that looks like a layer mask, this is your depth map, things closer to the front of the image will be darker (black), those furthest away will be lighter (white).

Make sure the Output setting is set to “New Layer” and press OK.

You will be returned to your document and there will be a new layer present that contains the depth map.



This is the layer created by the Depth Blur filter, that will be copy/pasted into a layer mask.

Here the visibility of the layer has been turned off.

Here the layer mask has been moved up onto a layer group so that a Curves adjustment layer could also be used to darken the background as well as removing the colour.

In this example a Black & White adjustment layer (at 60% opacity)

[Fig 2 – Depth Map Layer Mask example]

To convert this to a layer mask follow these steps;

1. Create an adjustment layer to achieve whatever adjustment you want.

In the example shown in Figure 2a a Black and White adjustment layer has been added (at 60% opacity) to reduce colour in the background.

2. Select the depth map layer and choose Select / All or press Cmd+A (Mac) or Ctrl+A (Win) to select the whole image.

3. Choose Edit / Copy or press Cmd+C (Mac) or Ctrl+C (Win) to copy the depth map to the clipboard.

4. Turn off the visibility of the depth map layer.

5. Hold down the Opt (Mac) or Alt (Win) key and click the layer mask on your adjustment layer. The white layer mask of the adjustment layer will be displayed.

SOME PHOTOSHOP INSPIRATION (CONT .....)

6. Choose Edit / Paste or press Cmd+V (Mac) or Ctrl+V (Win) to paste the depth map into the layer mask.

7. Hold down the Opt (Mac) or Alt (Win) key and click the layer mask on your adjustment layer to redisplay your image rather than the layer mask.

The depth map is now controlling your adjustment so that it is affecting the background of the image more than the items closer to the foreground.

In the second example in Figure 2 the layer mask has been moved onto a group that contains a Curves adjustment layer as well as the Black and White adjustment layer.

You can create the “reverse” mask to make your adjustments affect the foreground more than the background by inverting the mask (select the layer mask and press Cmd+I (Mac) or Ctrl+I (Win).

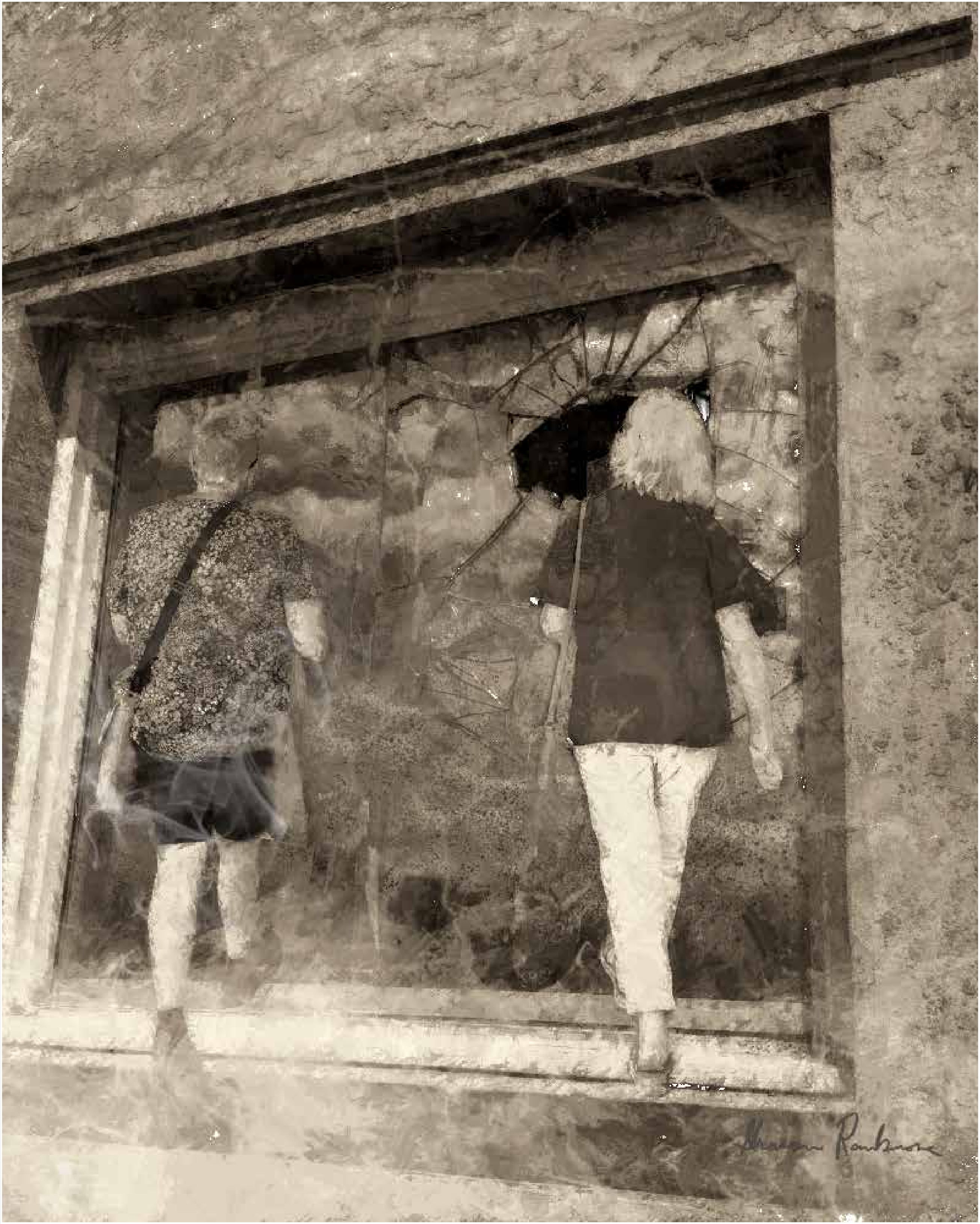
Like any layer mask you can also use a levels adjustment to refine the mask (make the light parts lighter or the dark parts darker).

Have fun playing with depth maps!

Andrew Haysom

SHARON RANKMORE (AUSTRALIA)

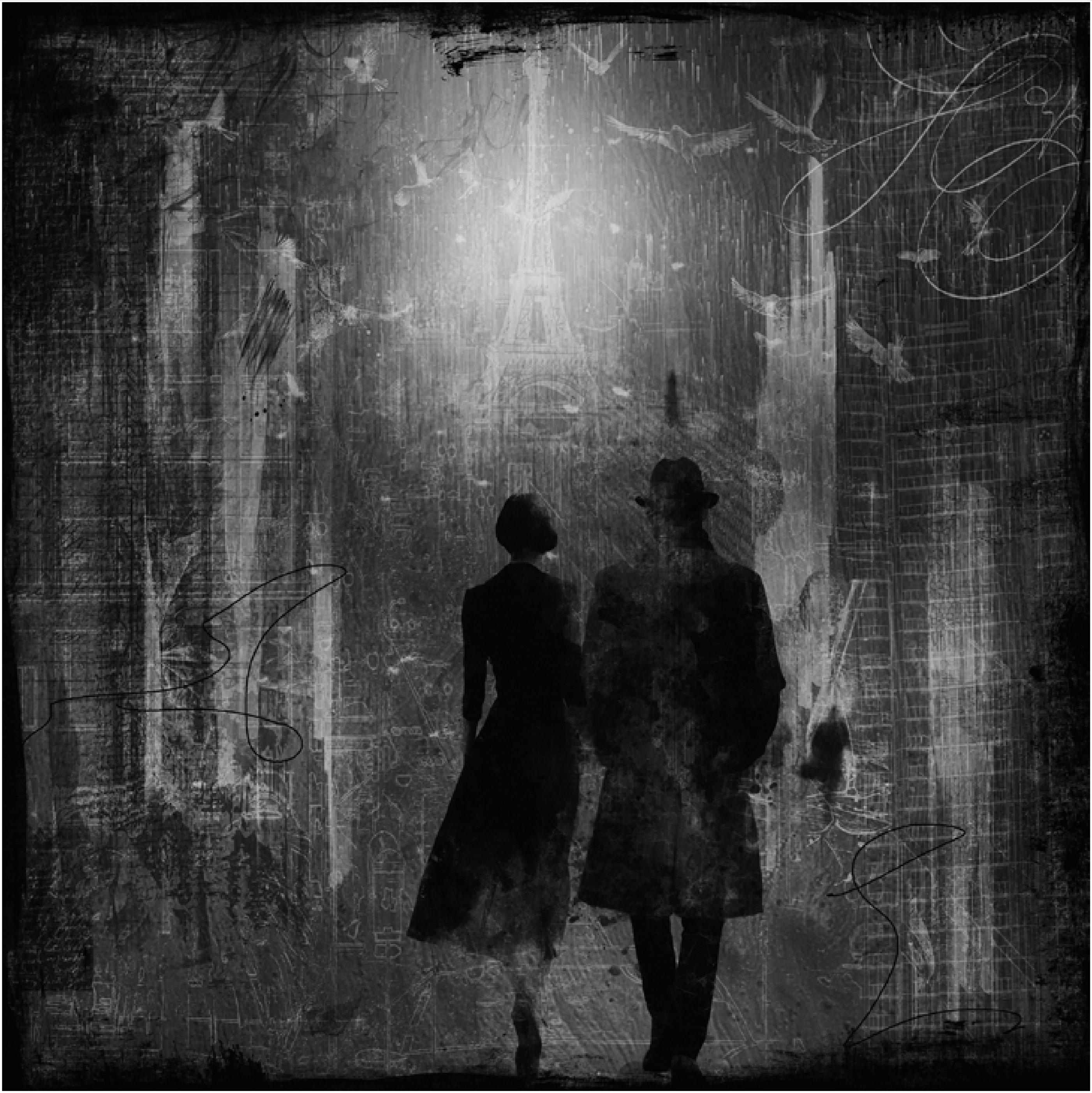
https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artists-4/sharon-rankmore/



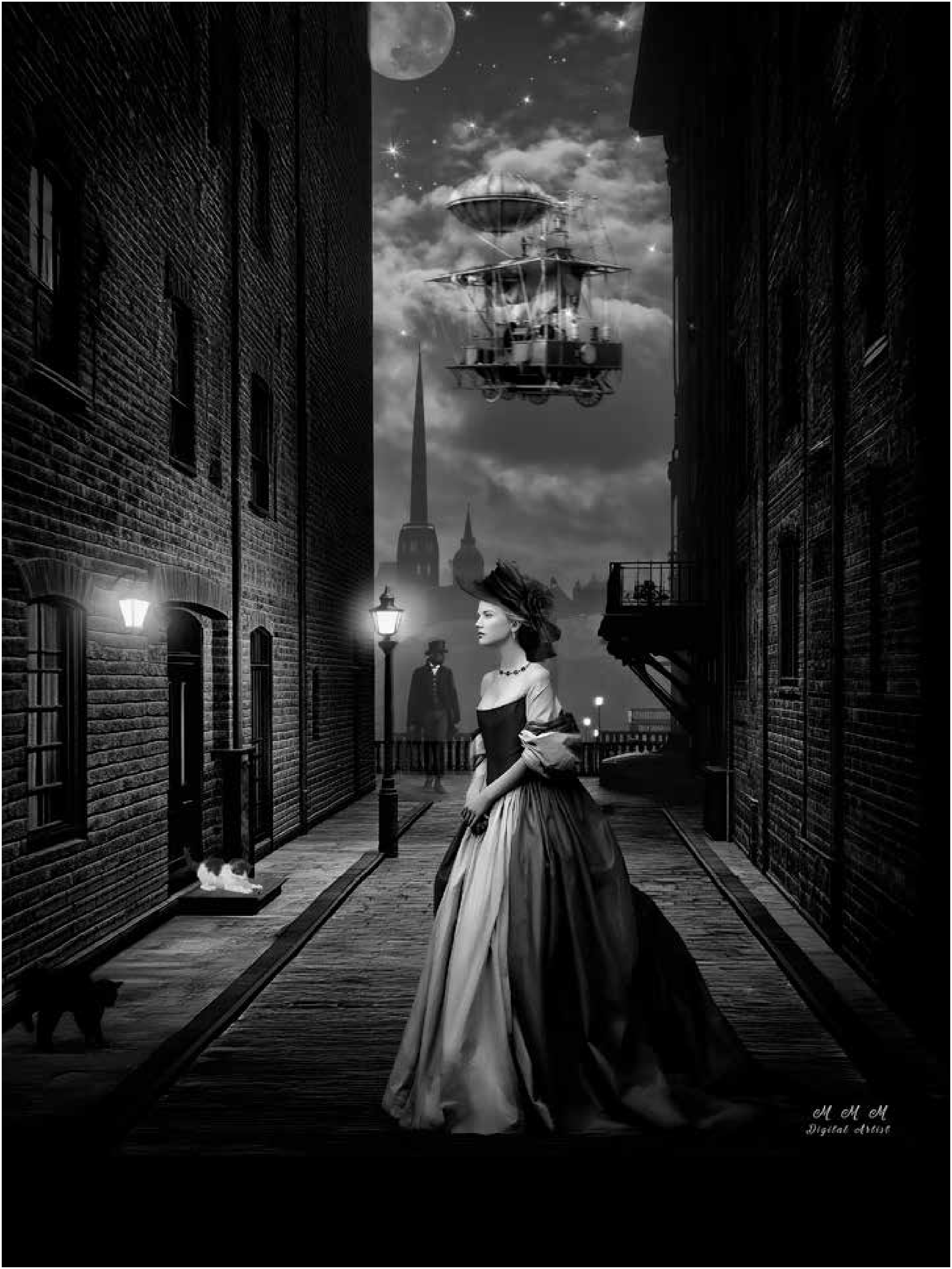
UNBREAKABLE

MAUREEN MAXWELL (AUSTRALIA)

http://www.artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-3/maureen-maxwell/



CITY AT NIGHT

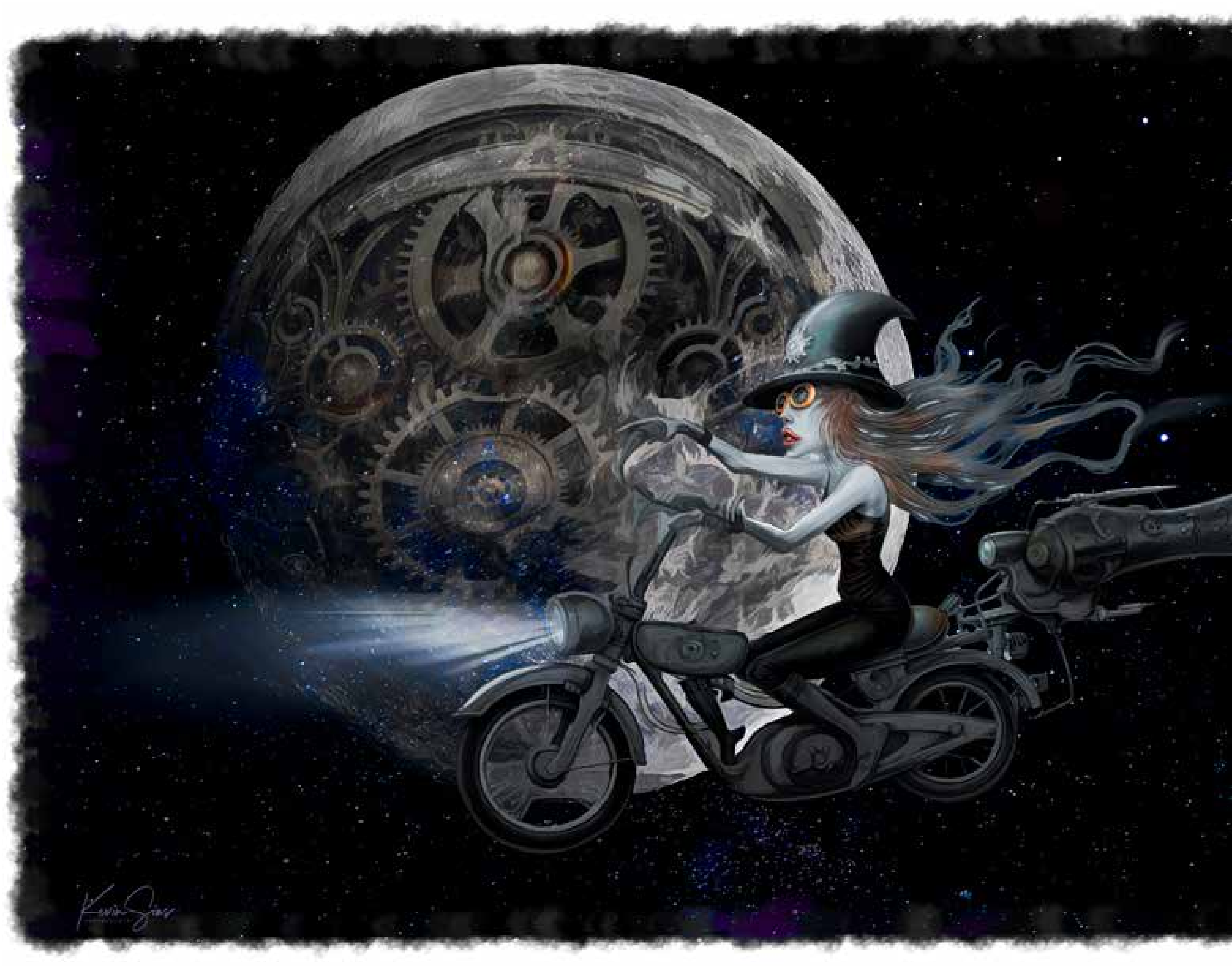

M M M
Digital Artist

DUBIOUS TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

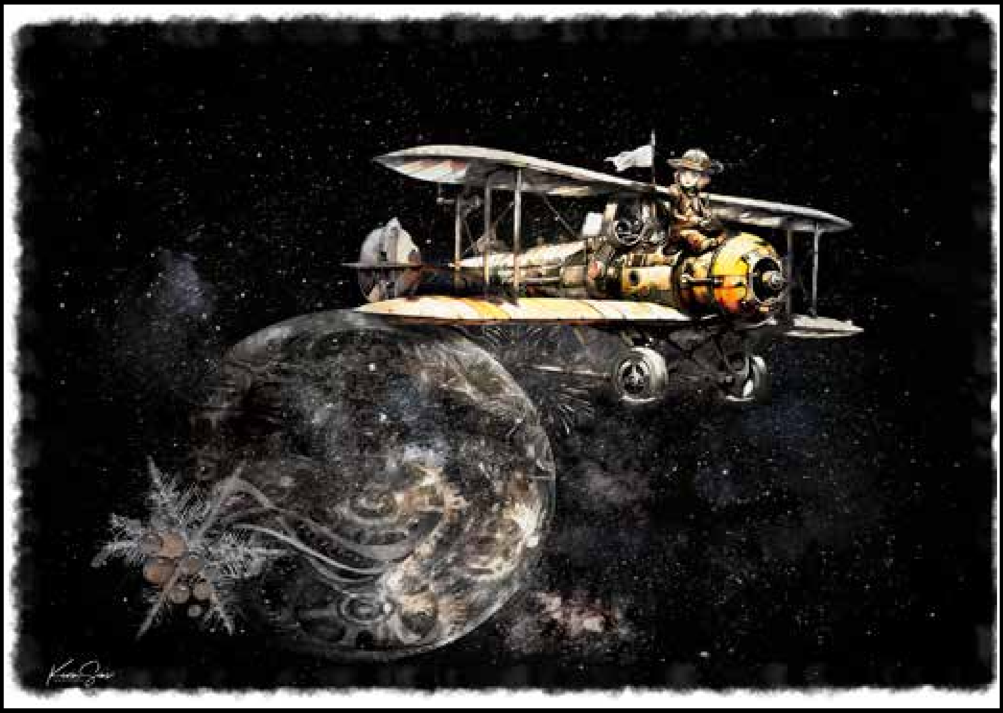
KEVIN SIMS (NEW ZEALAND)

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-3/kevin-sims/

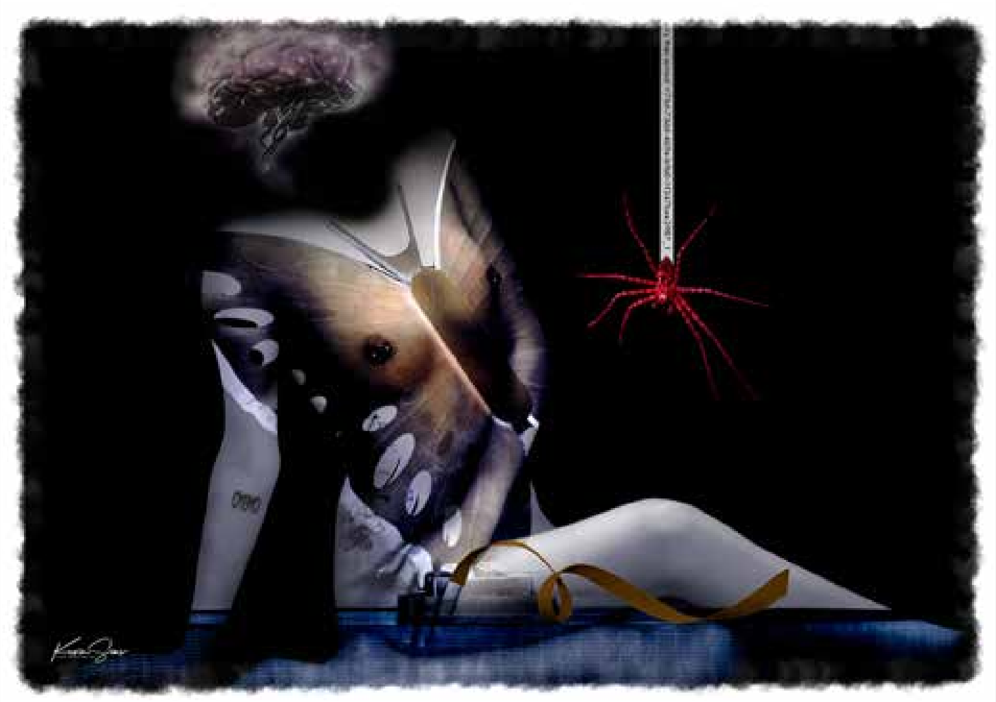
www.kevinsims.co.nz



CLOCKWORK MOON



FLIGHT OF FANTASY



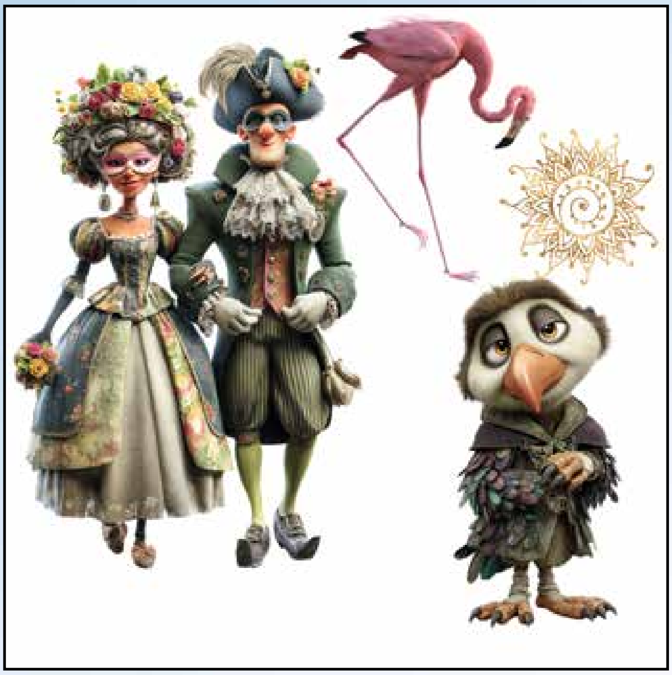
THE AI WEB

DIGITAL ARTISTS GROUP

A COLLABORATIVE GROUP OF PHOTO ARTISTS

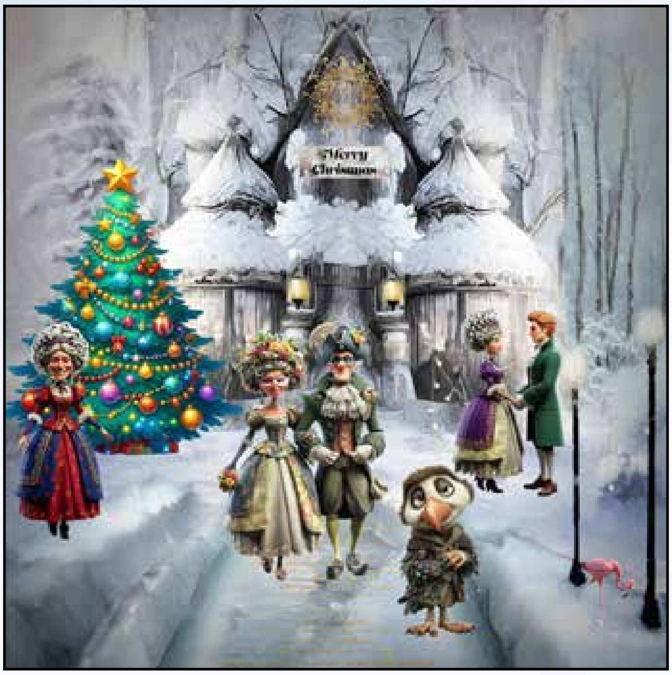
CHINESE WHISPERS #96
“CHRISTMAS MASQUERADE BALL”

STAGE 1



Maureen Maxwell

STAGE 2



Pam Henderson

Pam has created a delightful, and magical, scene full of joy and happiness, from the few elements I started this month’s collaboration with. It is always a wonderful surprise to see the end result.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and to thank you for enjoying our collaborative efforts throughout the year.’

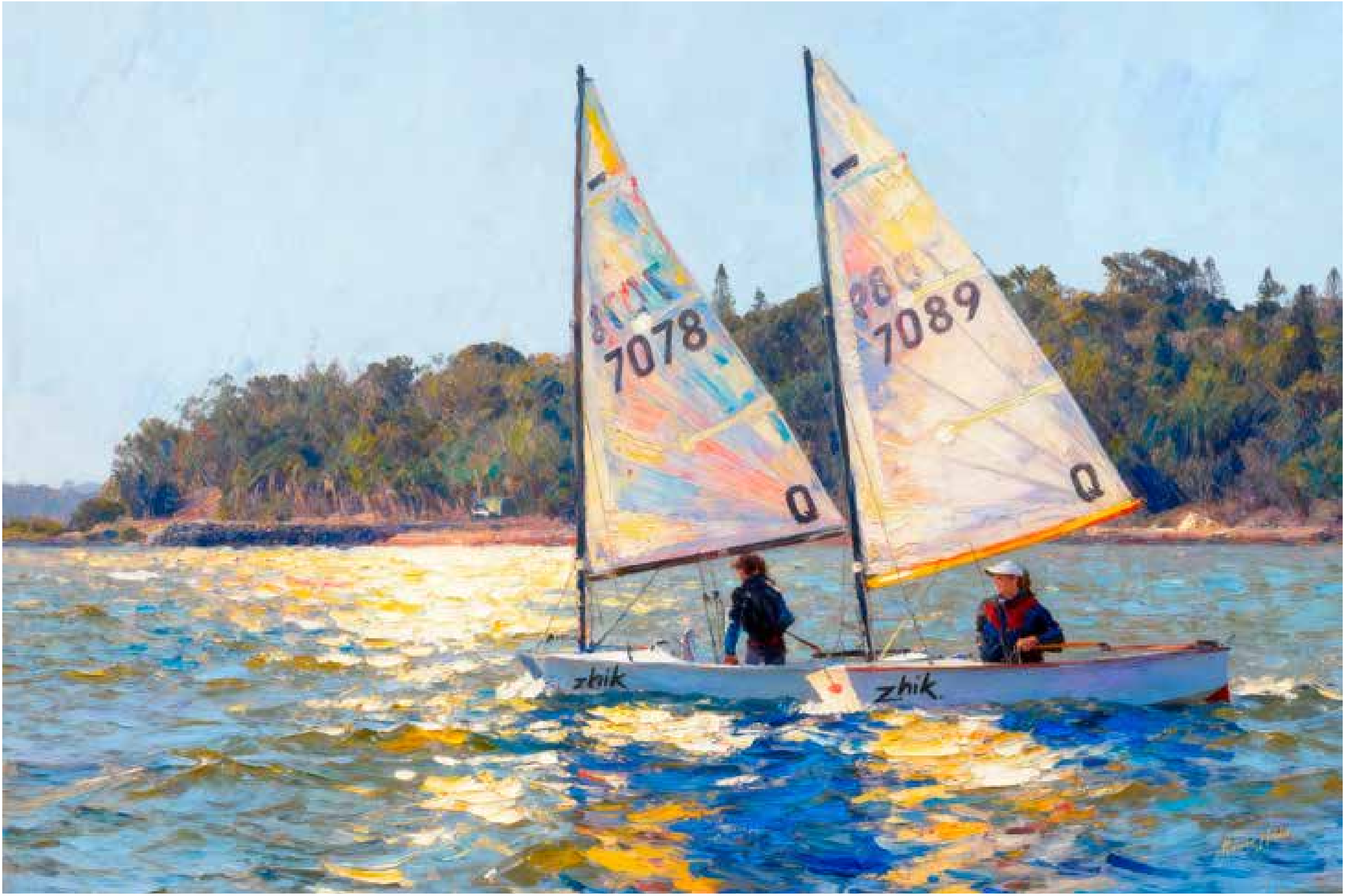
Maureen Maxwell

ART

BY

MARINA HOBBS

BOATING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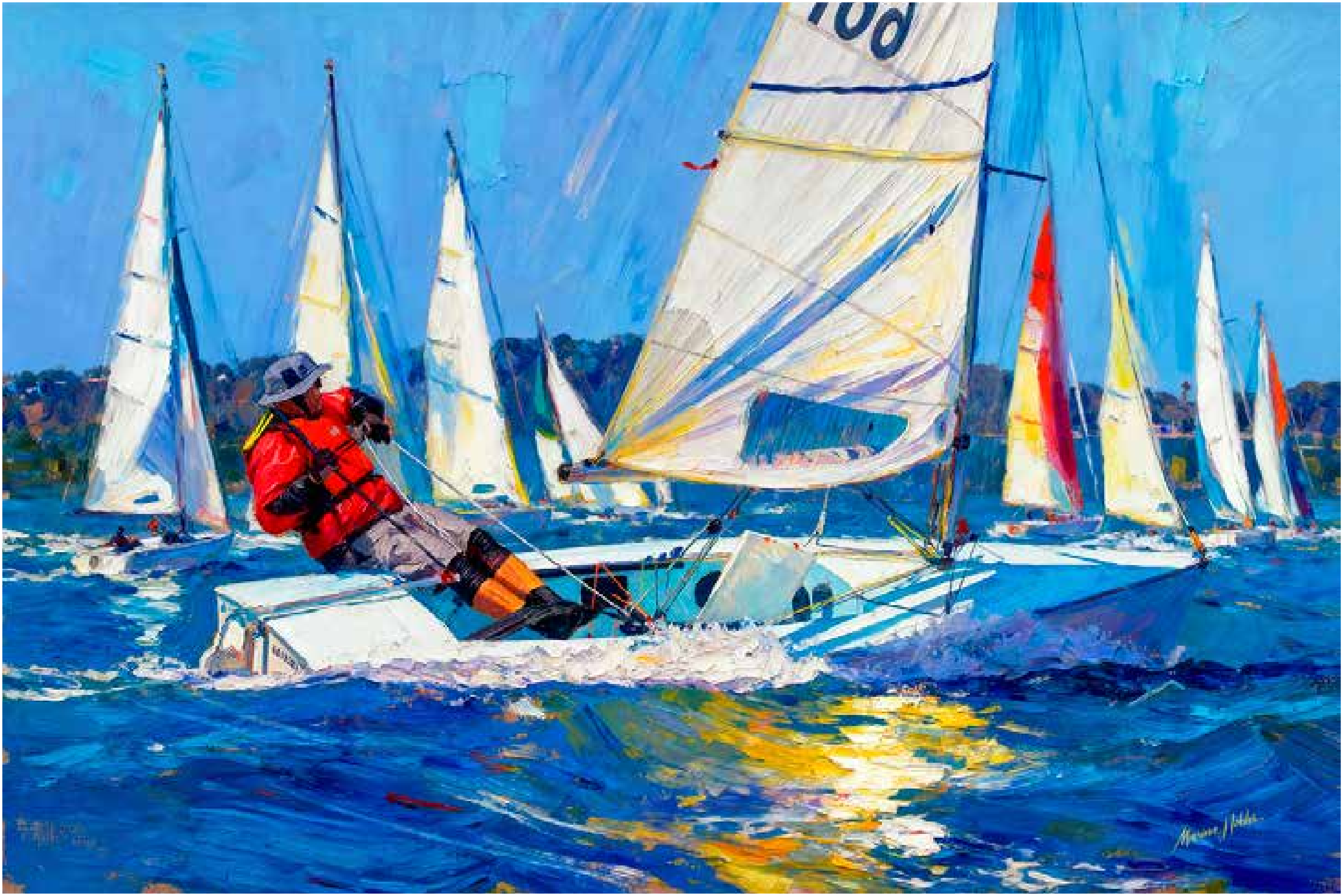
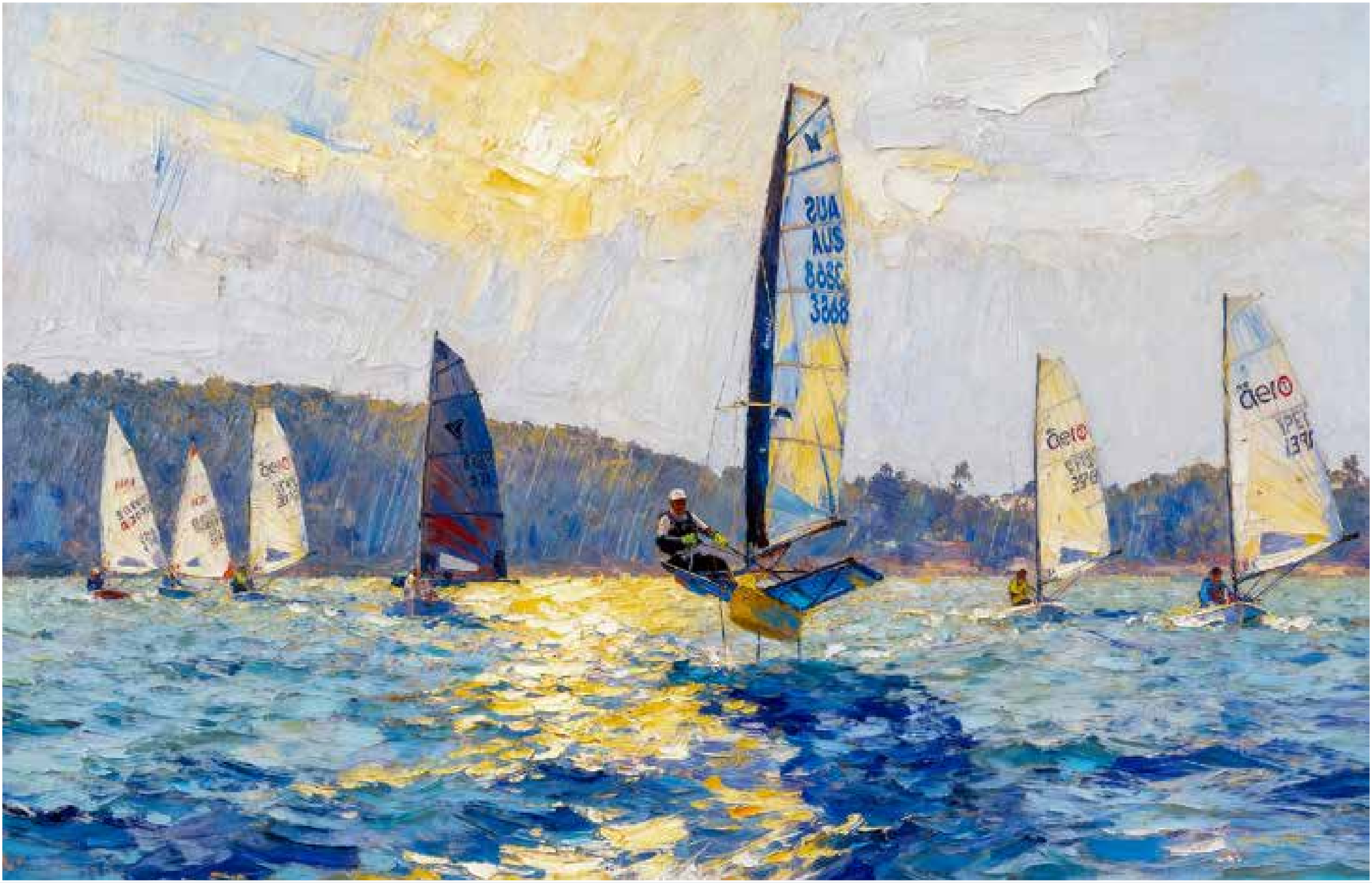
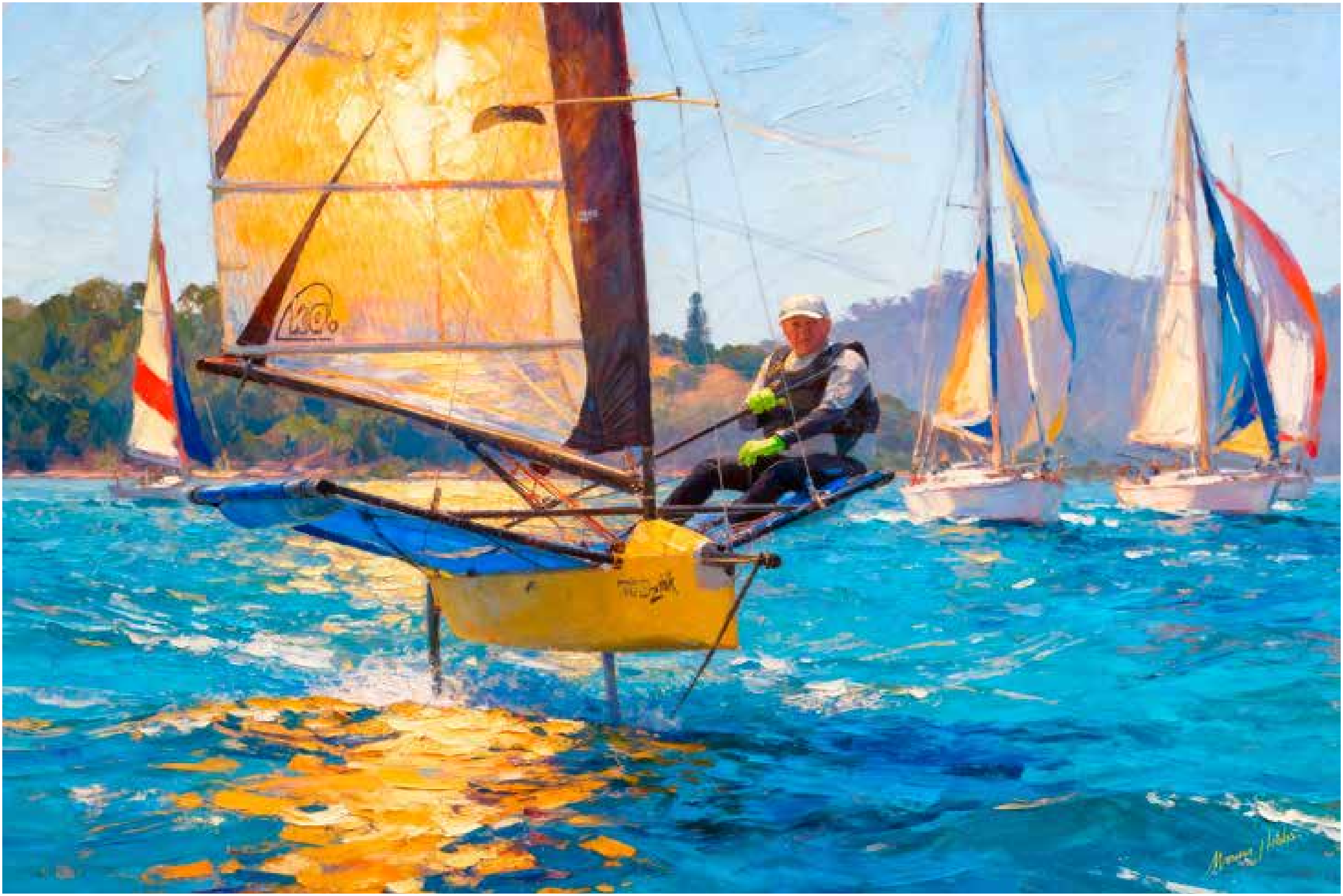
LULU AND ELIZA



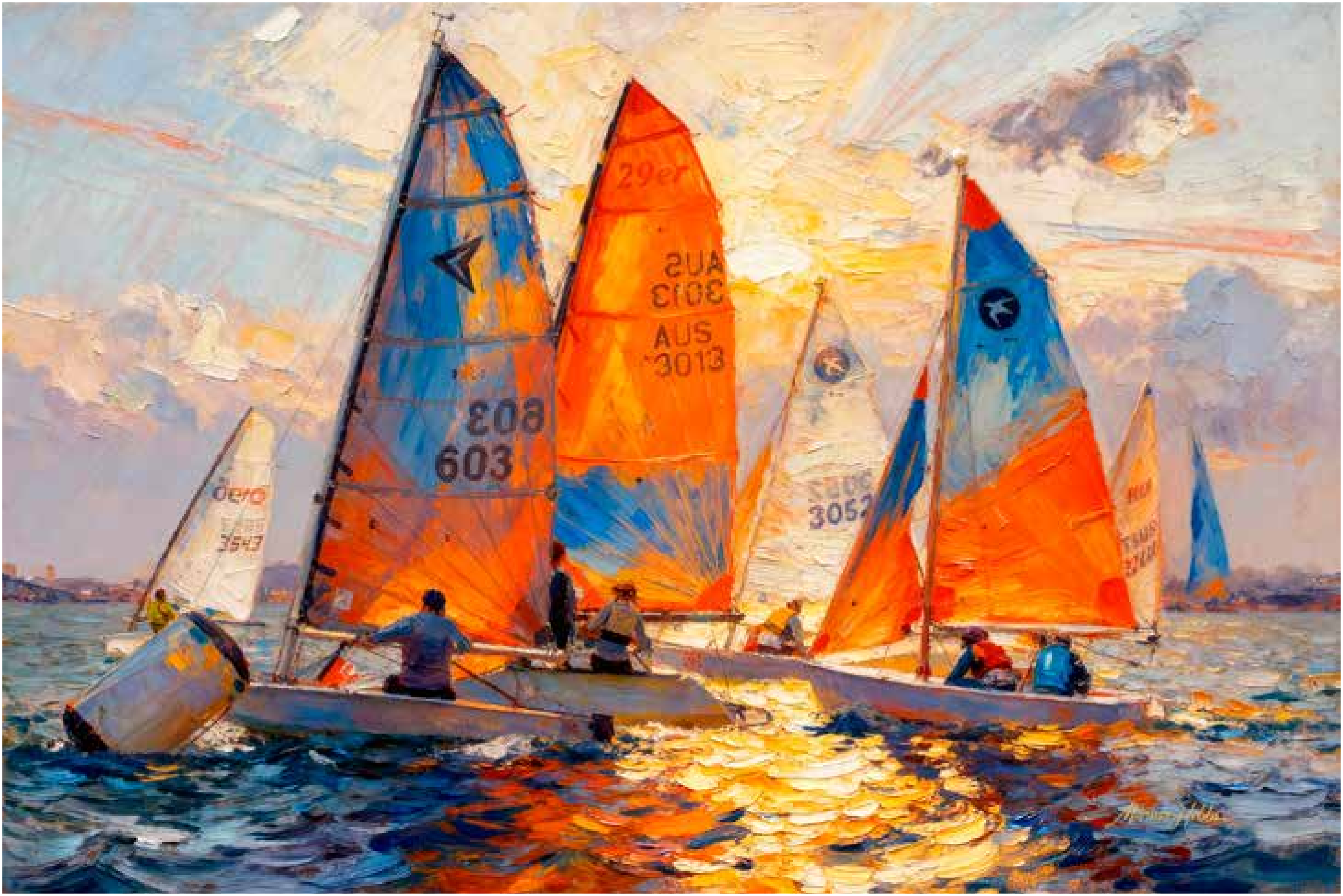
SHELDON


AUS
3888
aero

THE FLEET DOWNWIND



THE MOTH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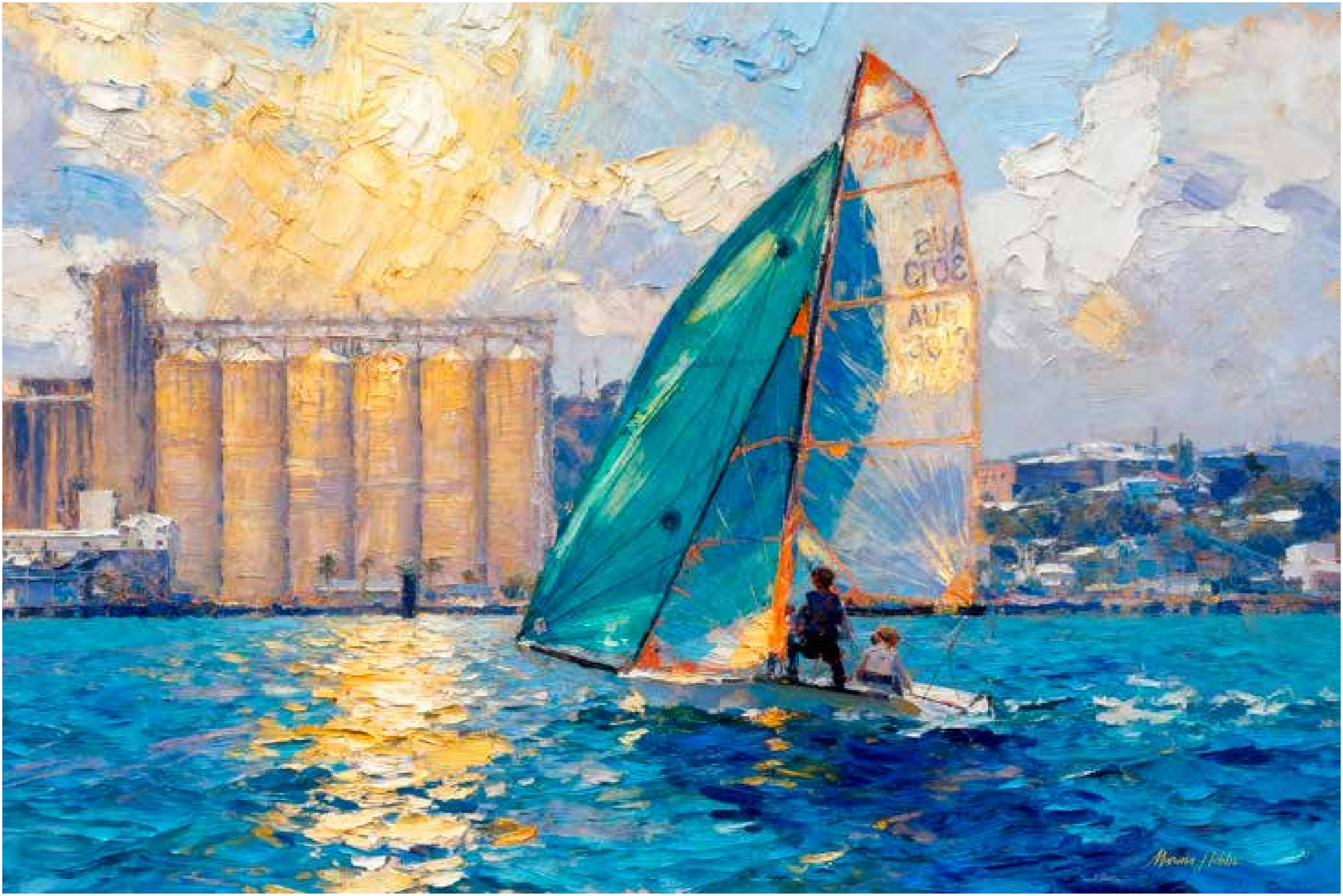
603
3052
3543

THE START OF RACE I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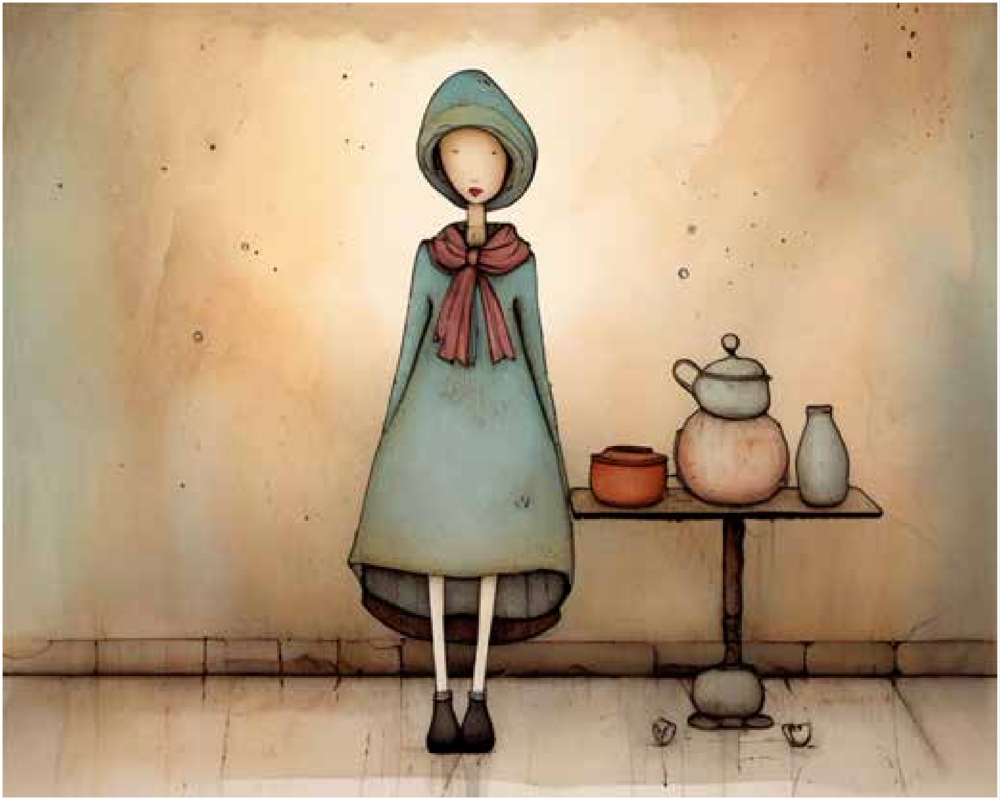
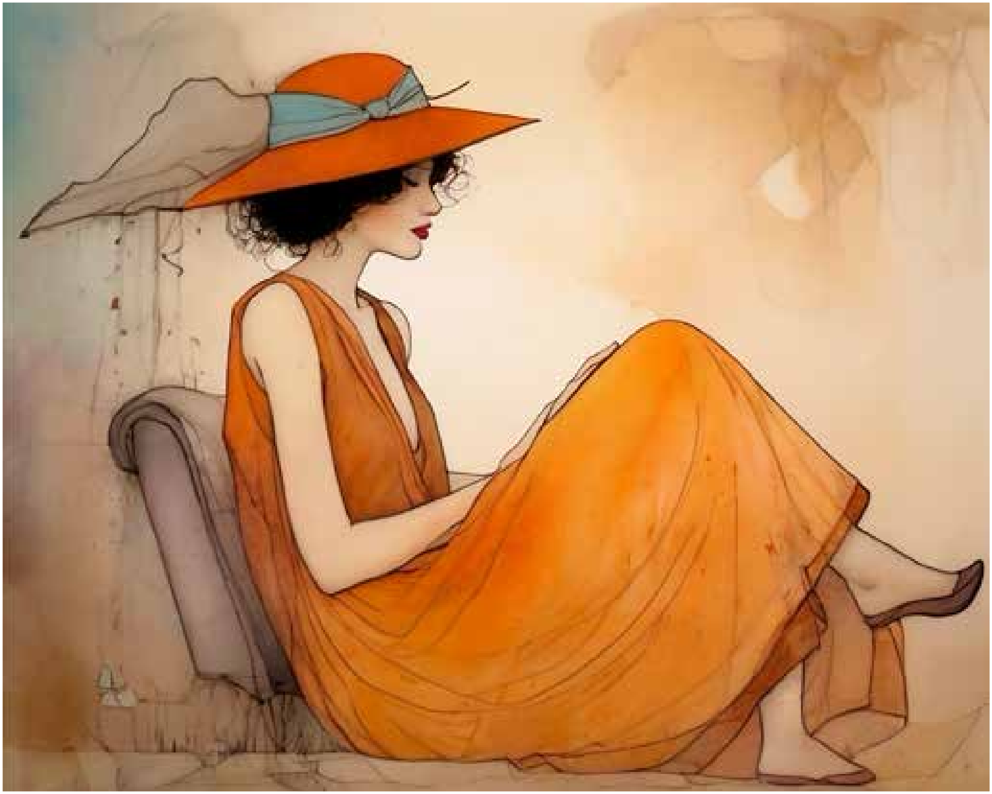
THE 29 ER ON GLADSTONE HARBOUR

AL BAMASS (AUSTRALIA)



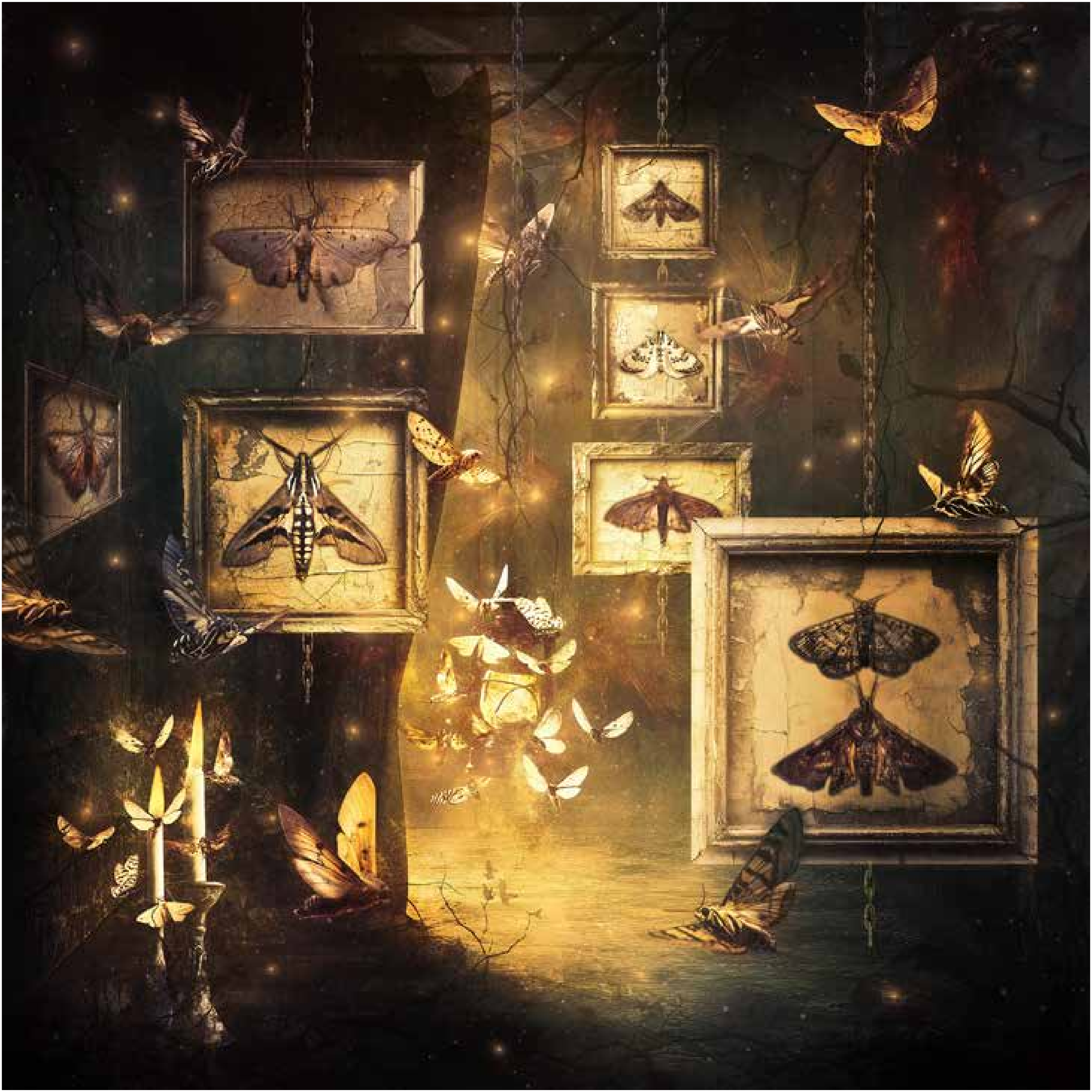
SOLITUDE IN SIMPLICITY



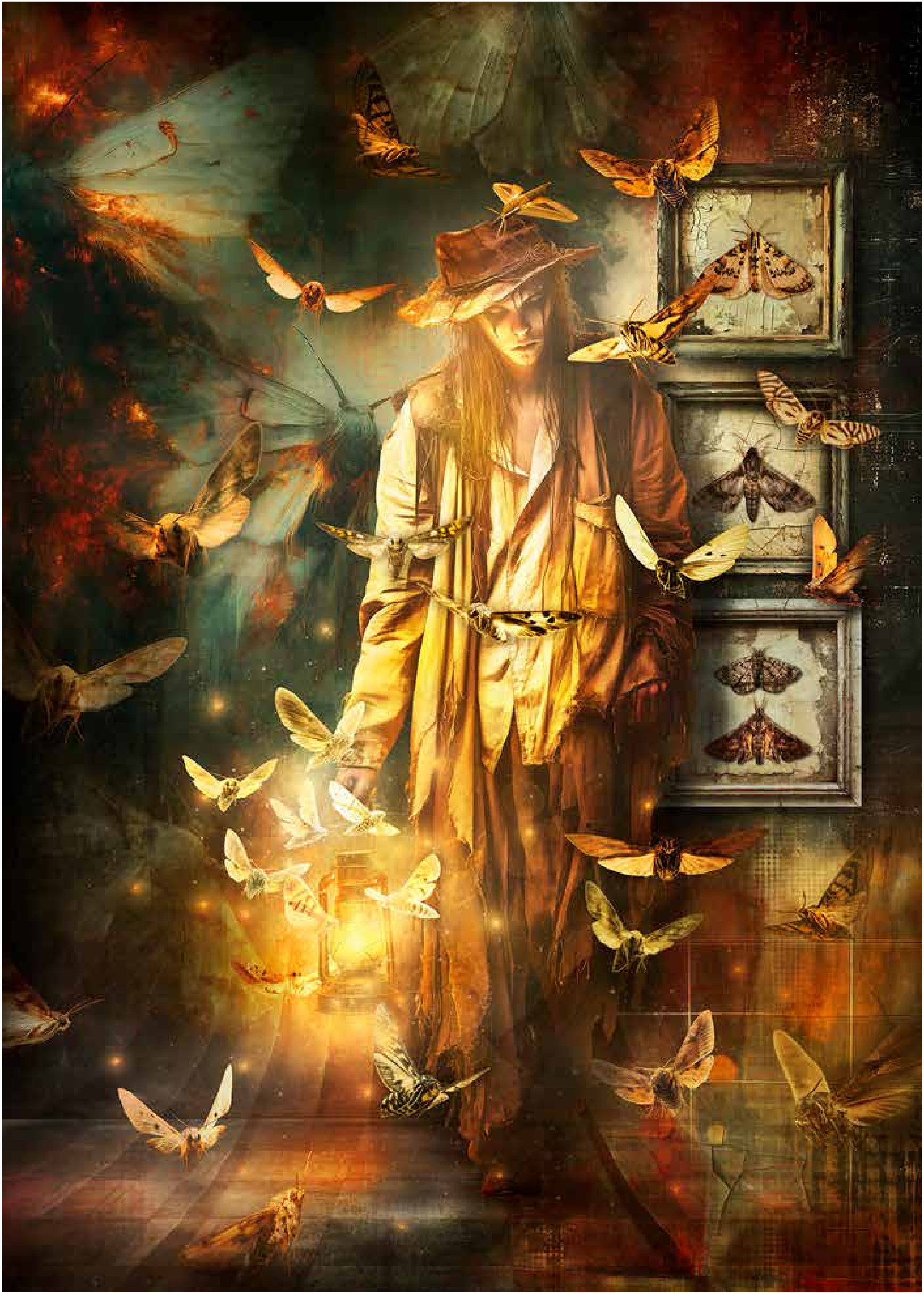
SUNDAY

PENNY DE JONG (AUSTRALIA)

http://www.artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-4/penny-de-jong/

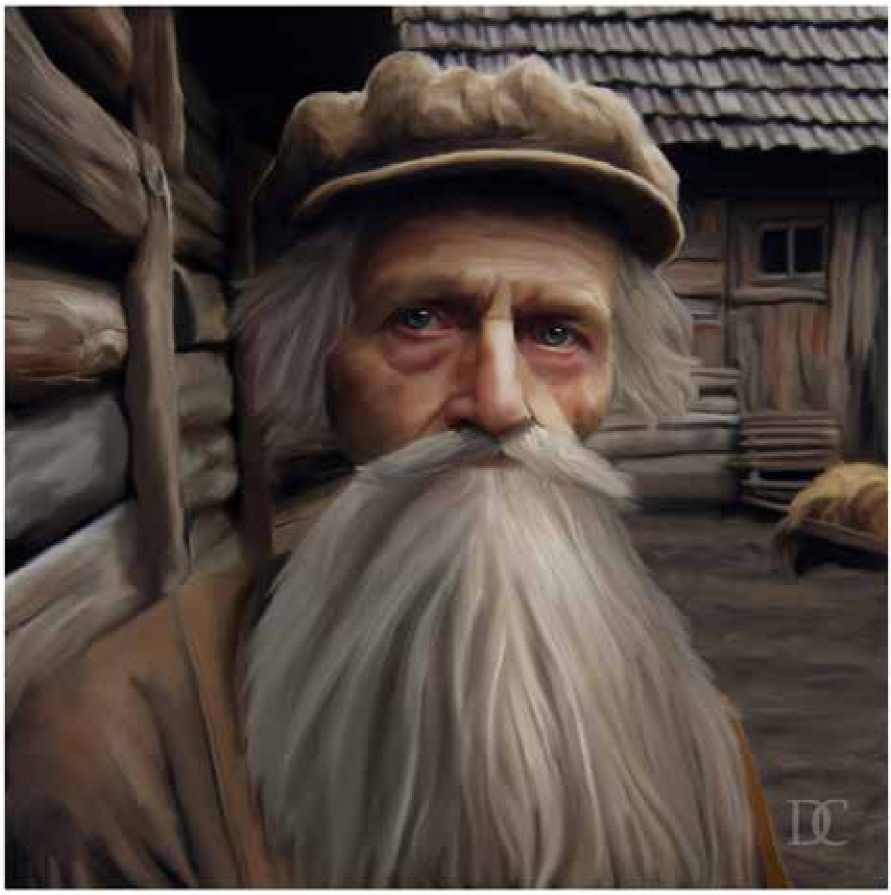


A WHISPERING OF MOTHS

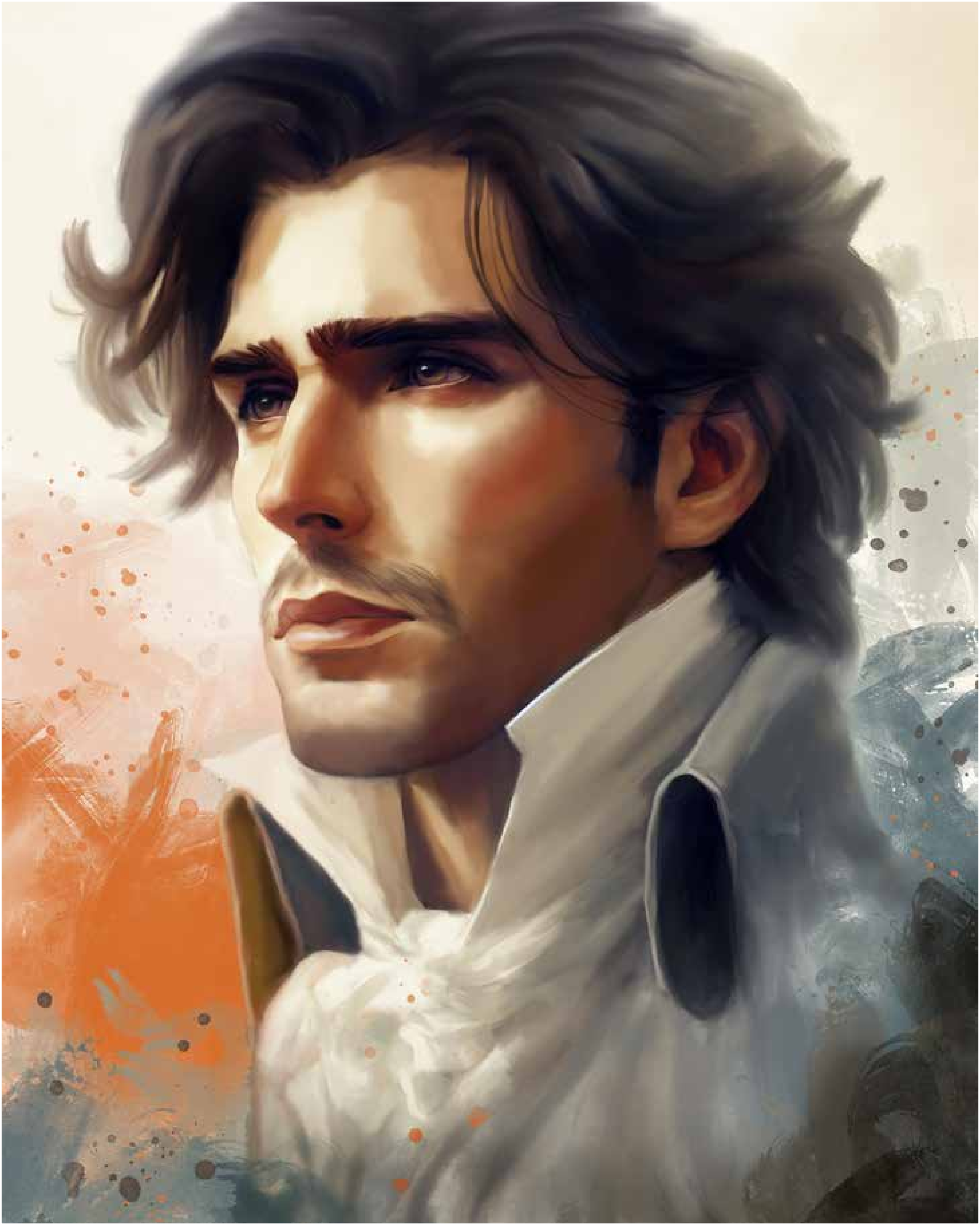


THE MOTH COLLECTOR

DENISE CAUCHI (AUSTRALIA)

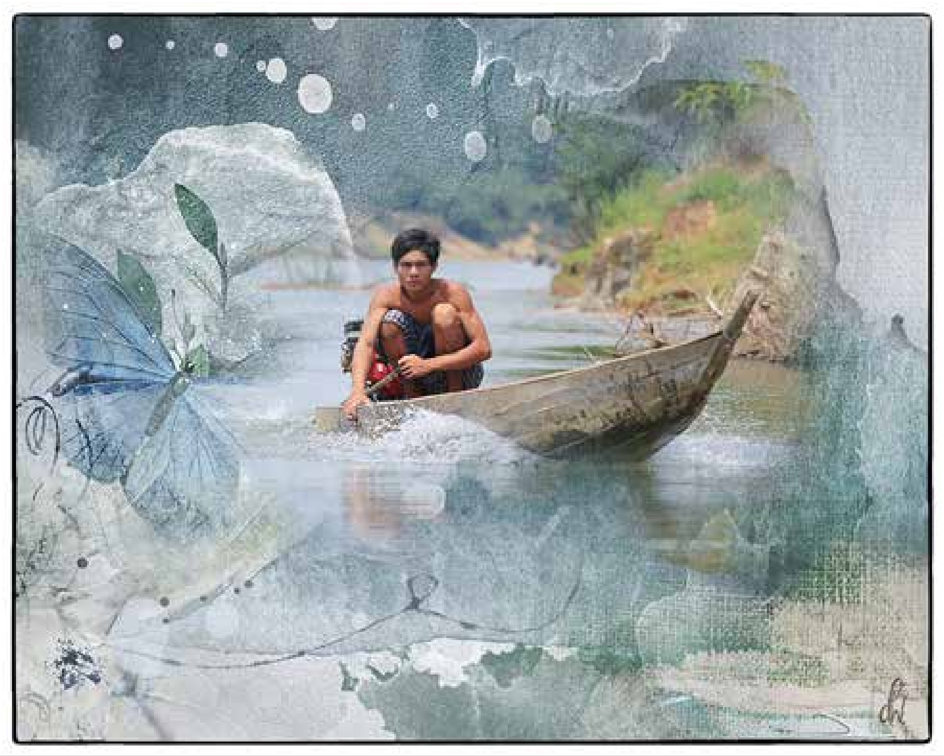


OLD FARMER

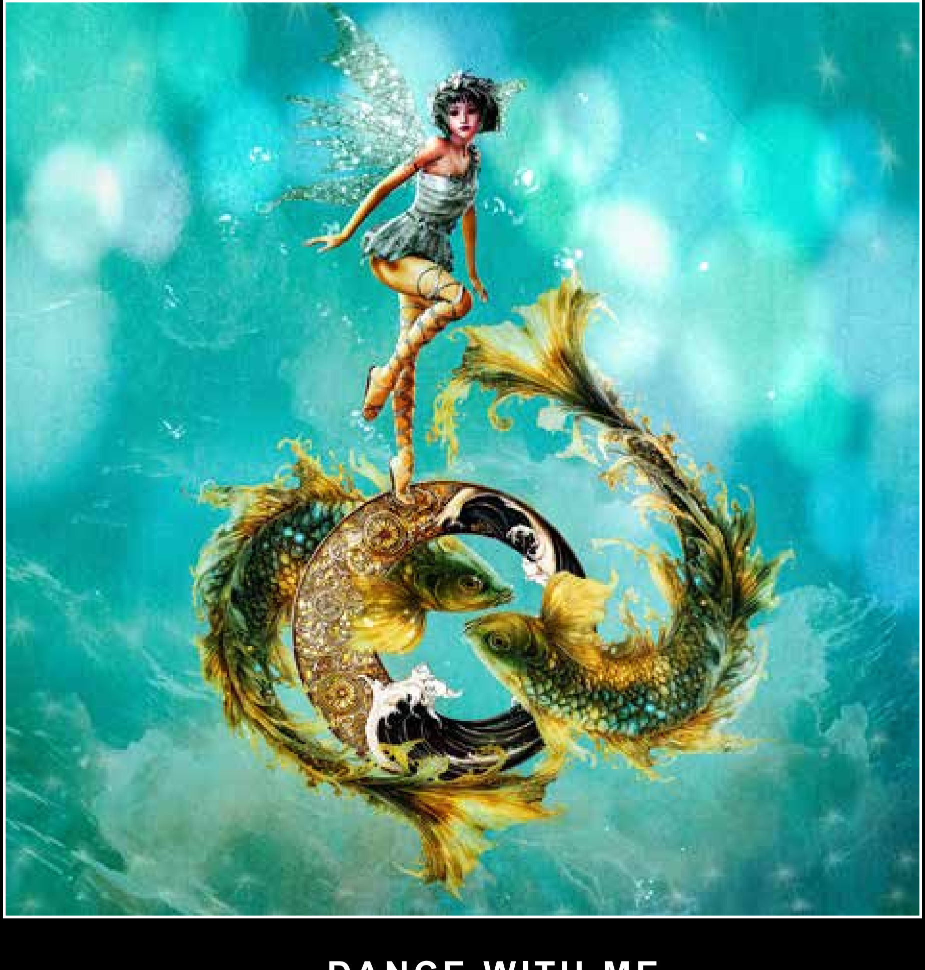


HANDSOME

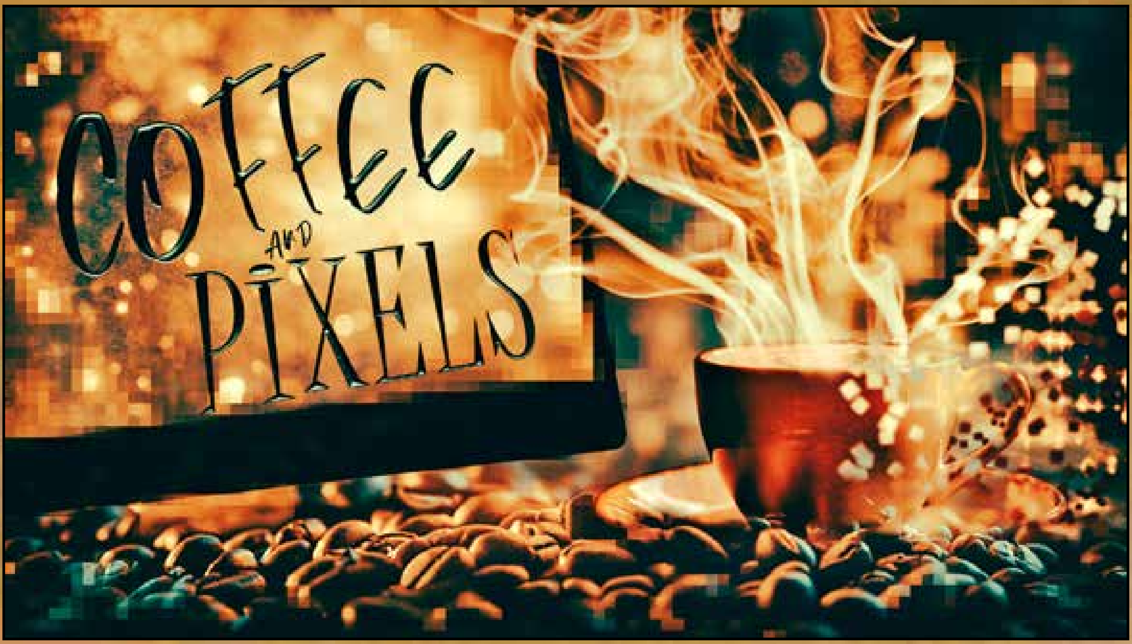
DENISE HUNTER LOGAN (AUSTRALIA)



WATERWAY



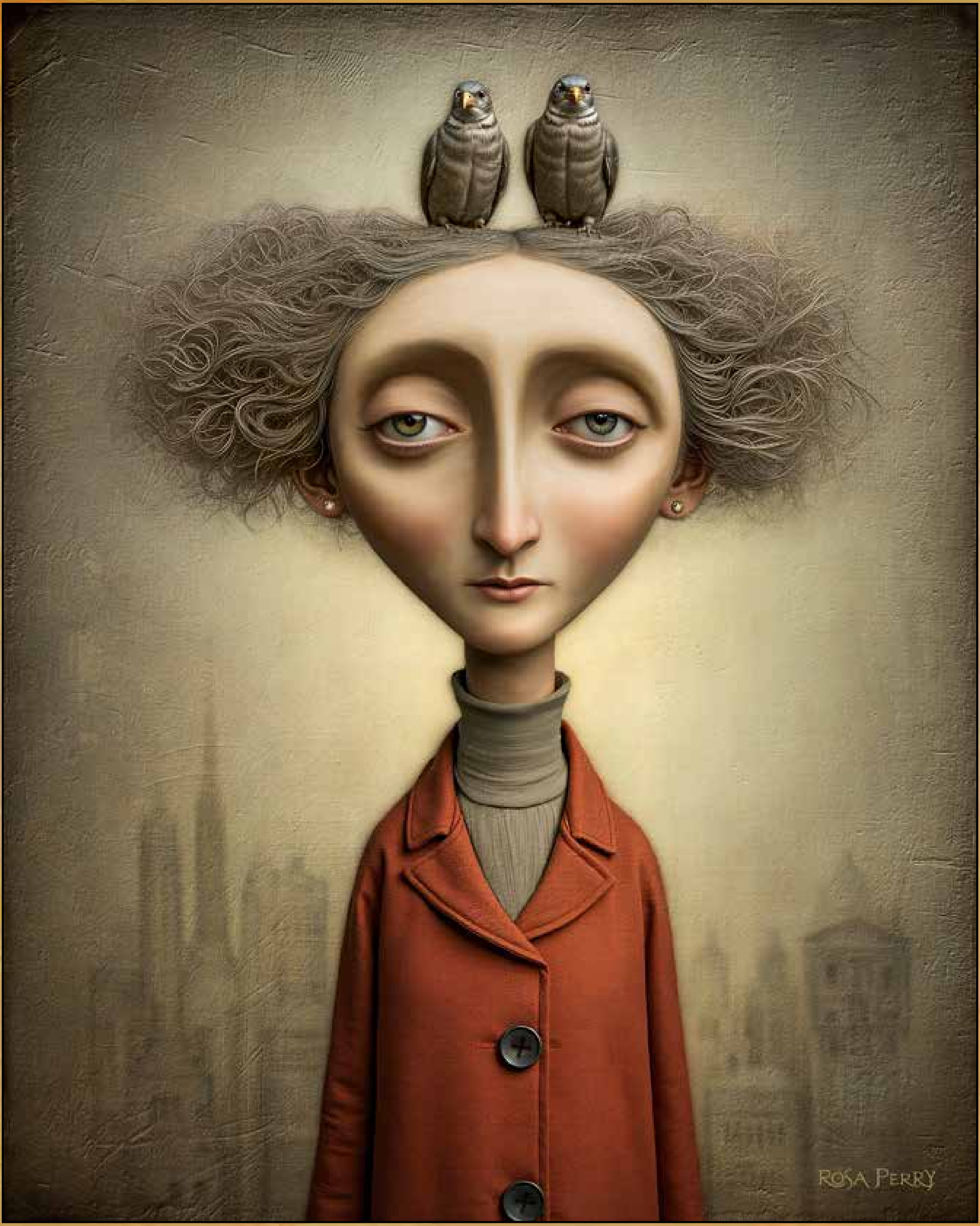
DANCE WITH ME


COFFEE
AND
PIXELS

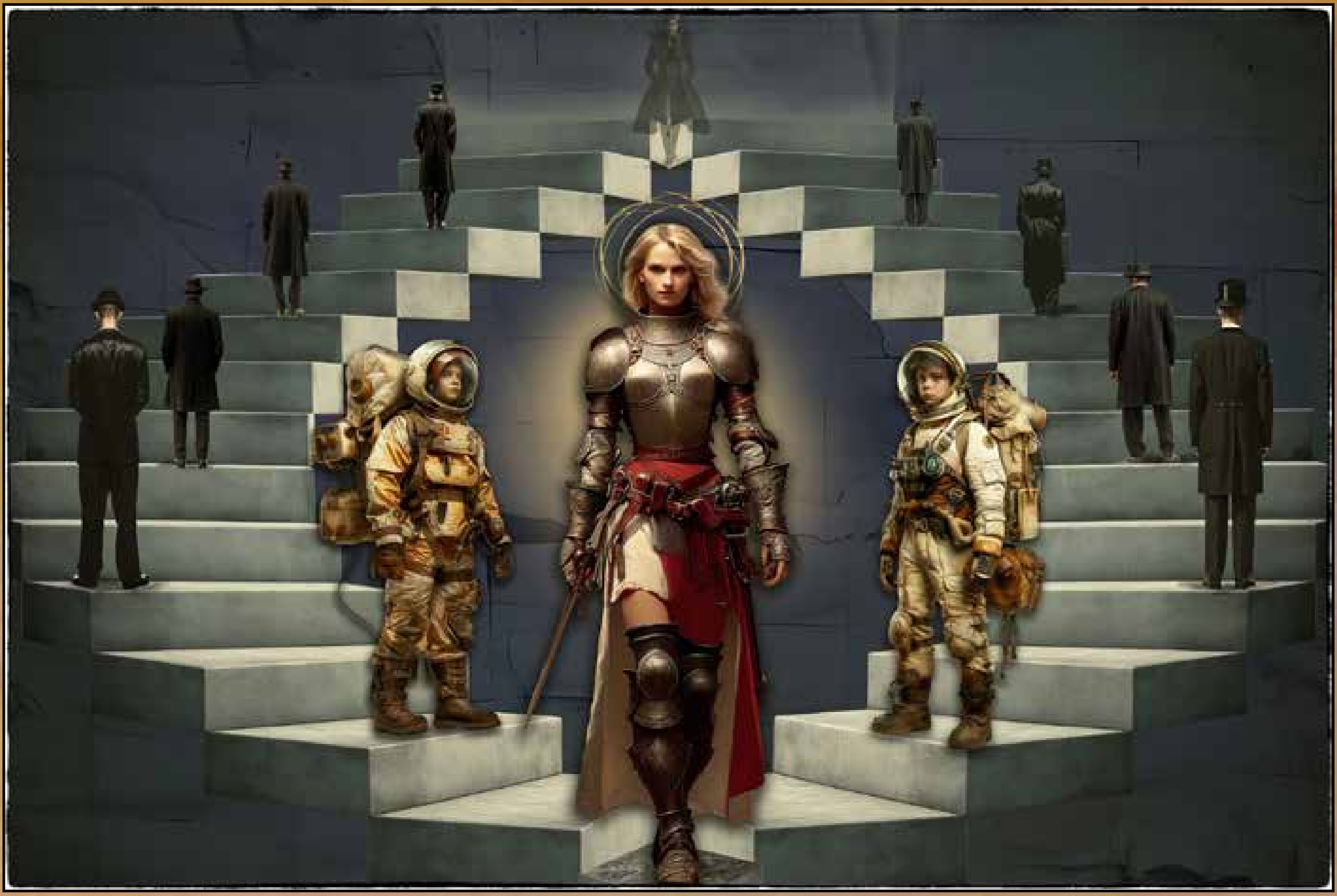
‘COFFEE and PIXELS’
by Maureen Maxwell

THIS MONTHS CHALLENGE THEME IS

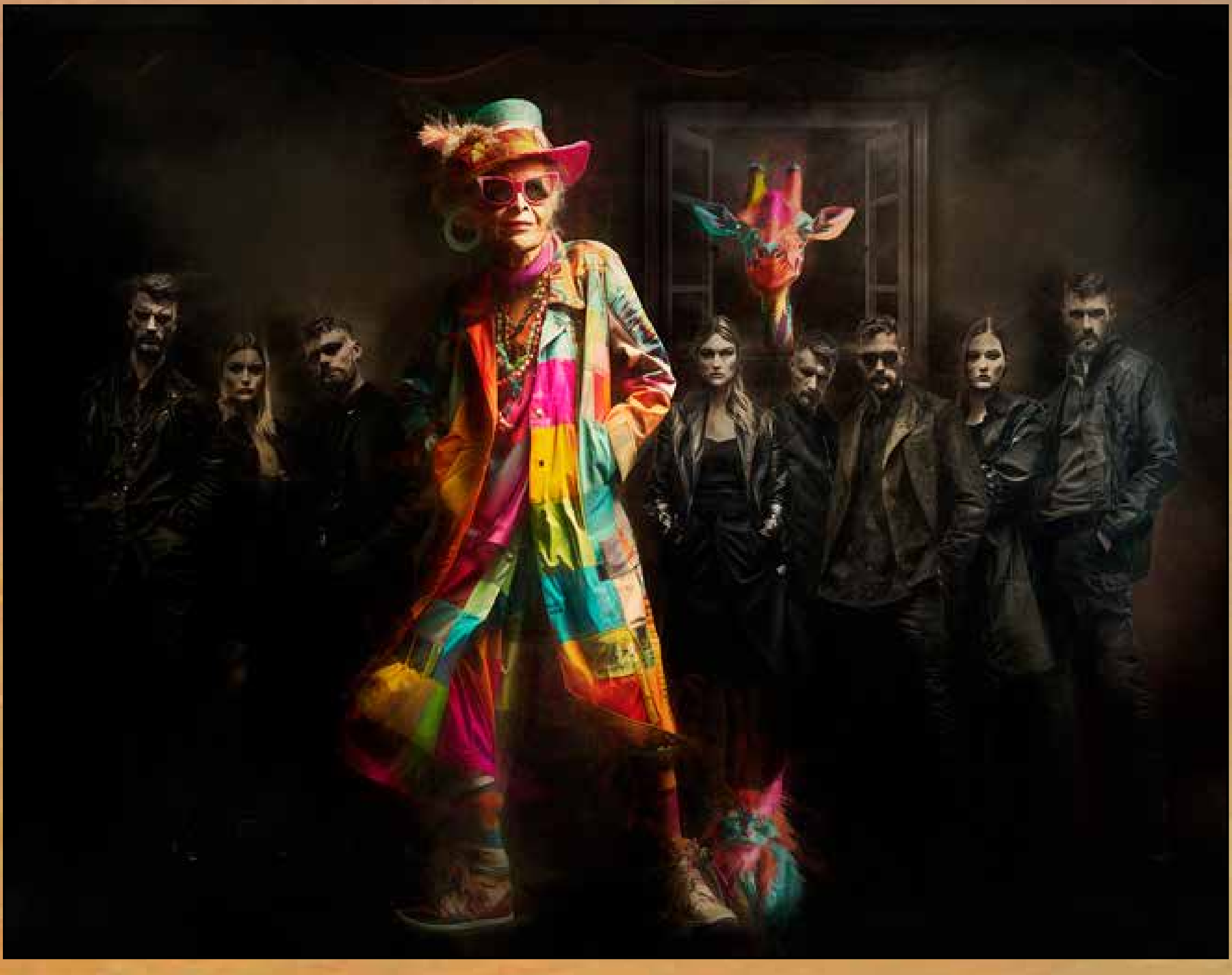
Dare To Be Different



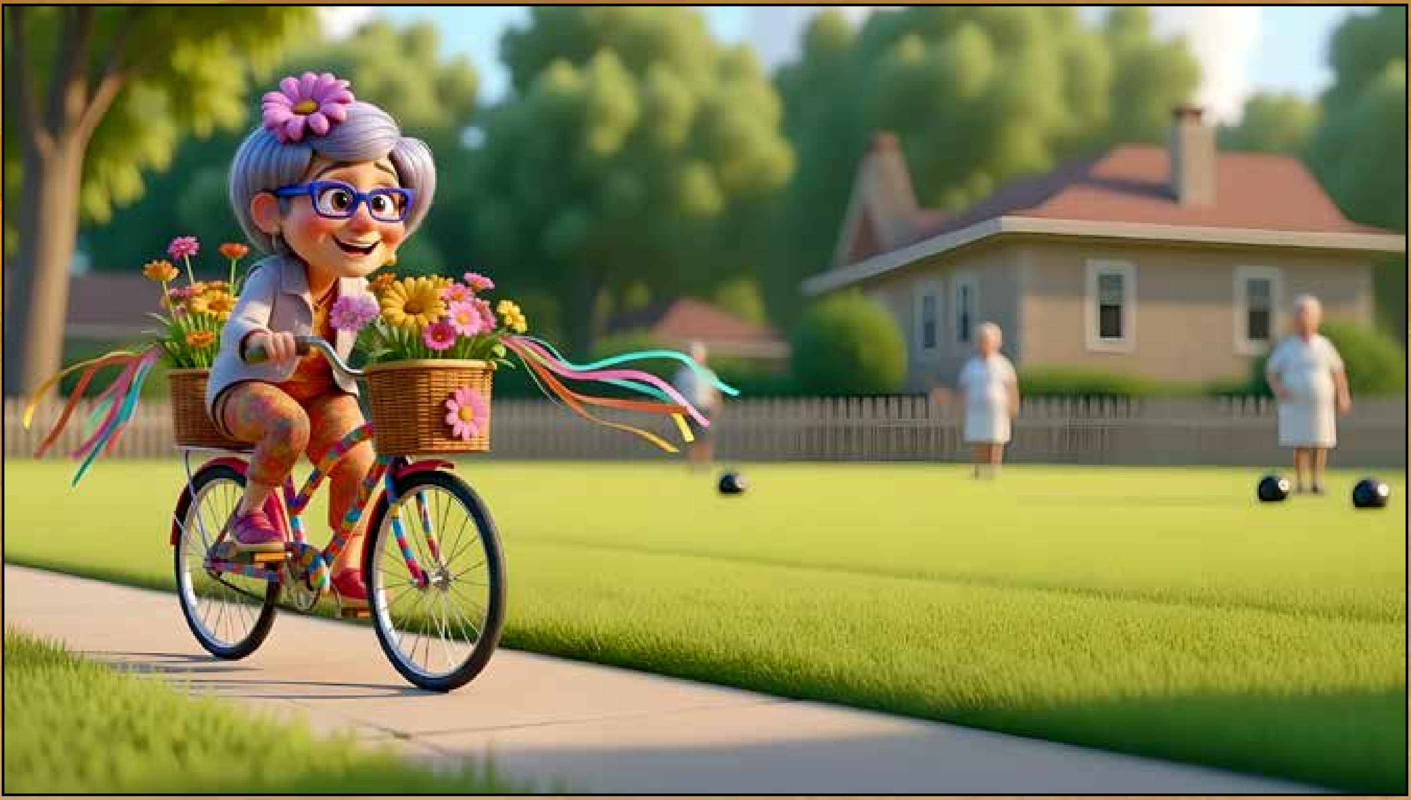
Rosa Perry - Different By Design



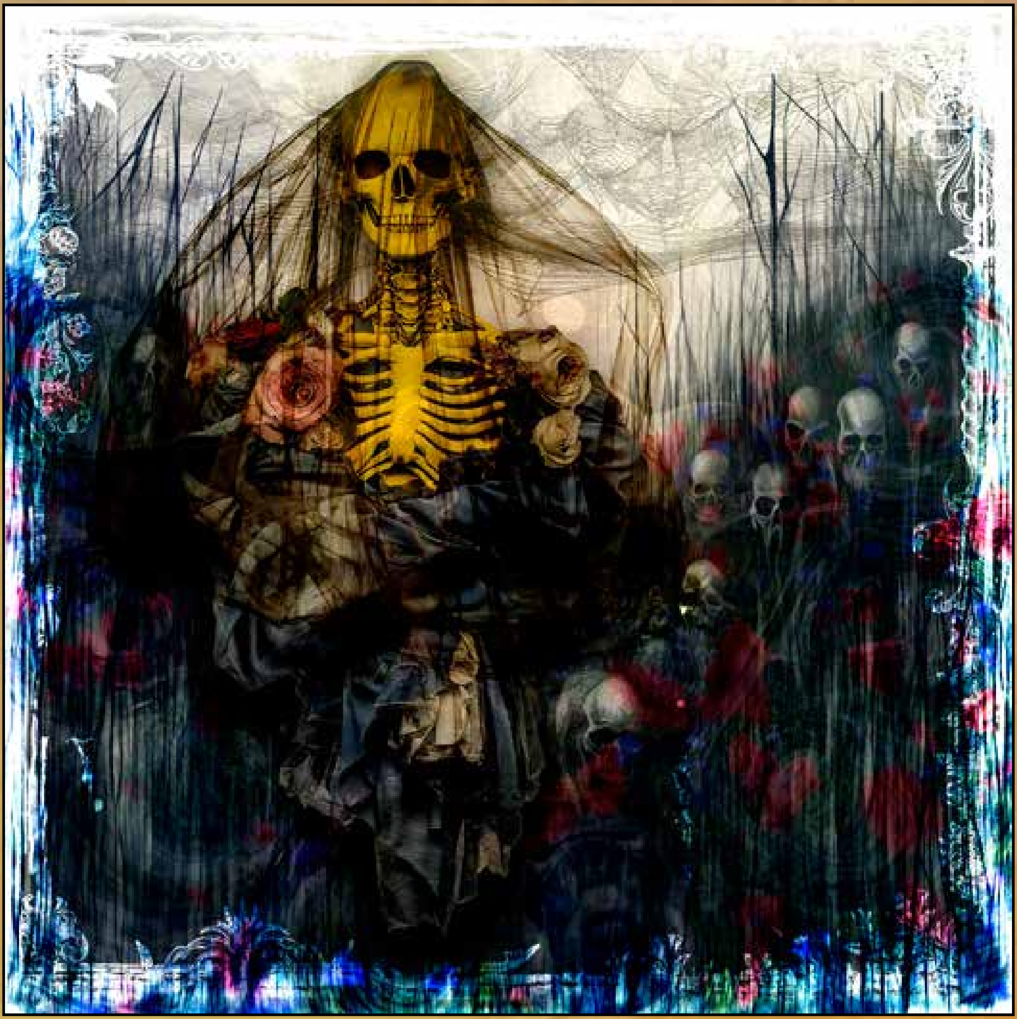
Maureen Maxwell - Accepting The Dare



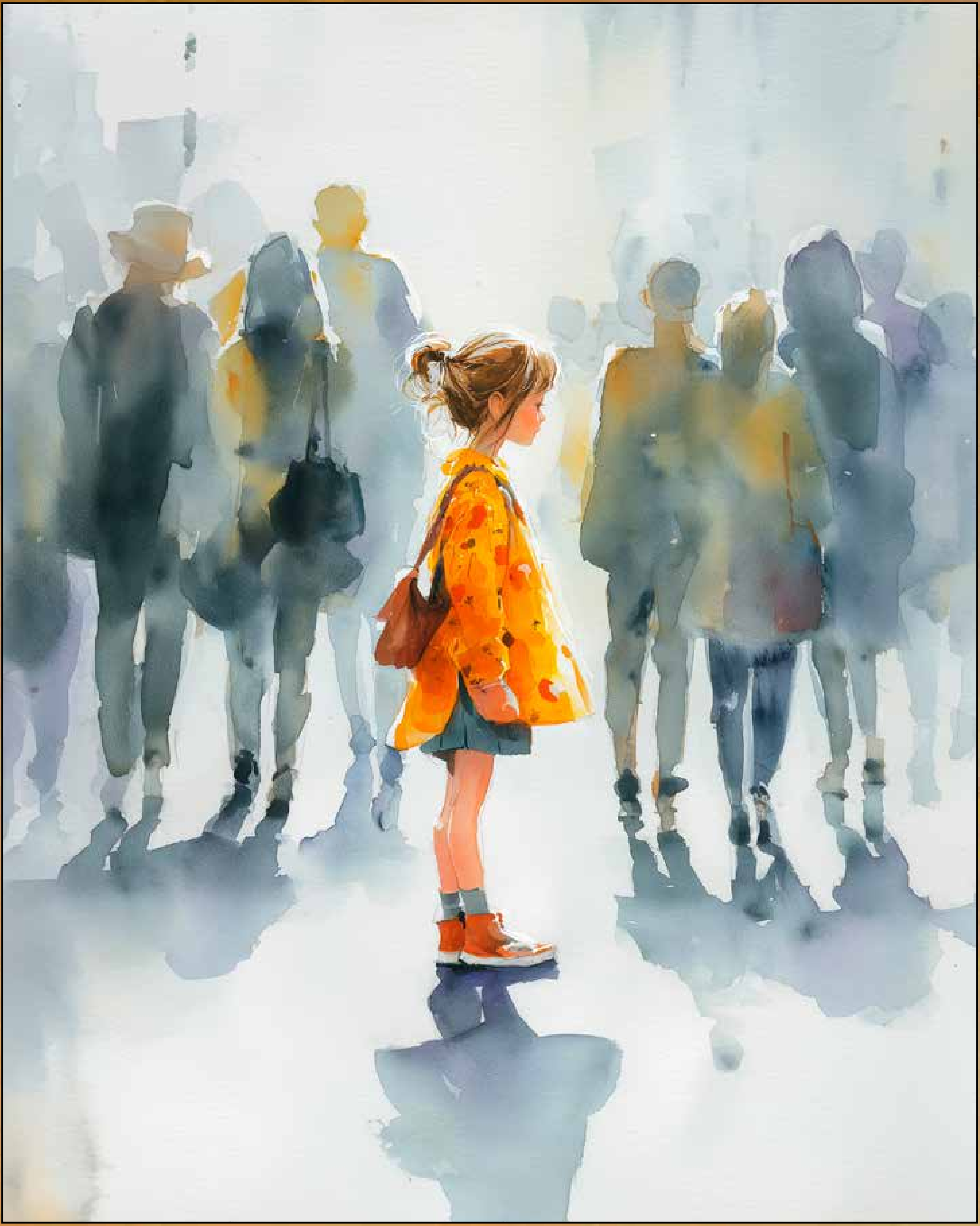
Penny de Jong - Flamboyant Phyllis And Her Peculiar Pets



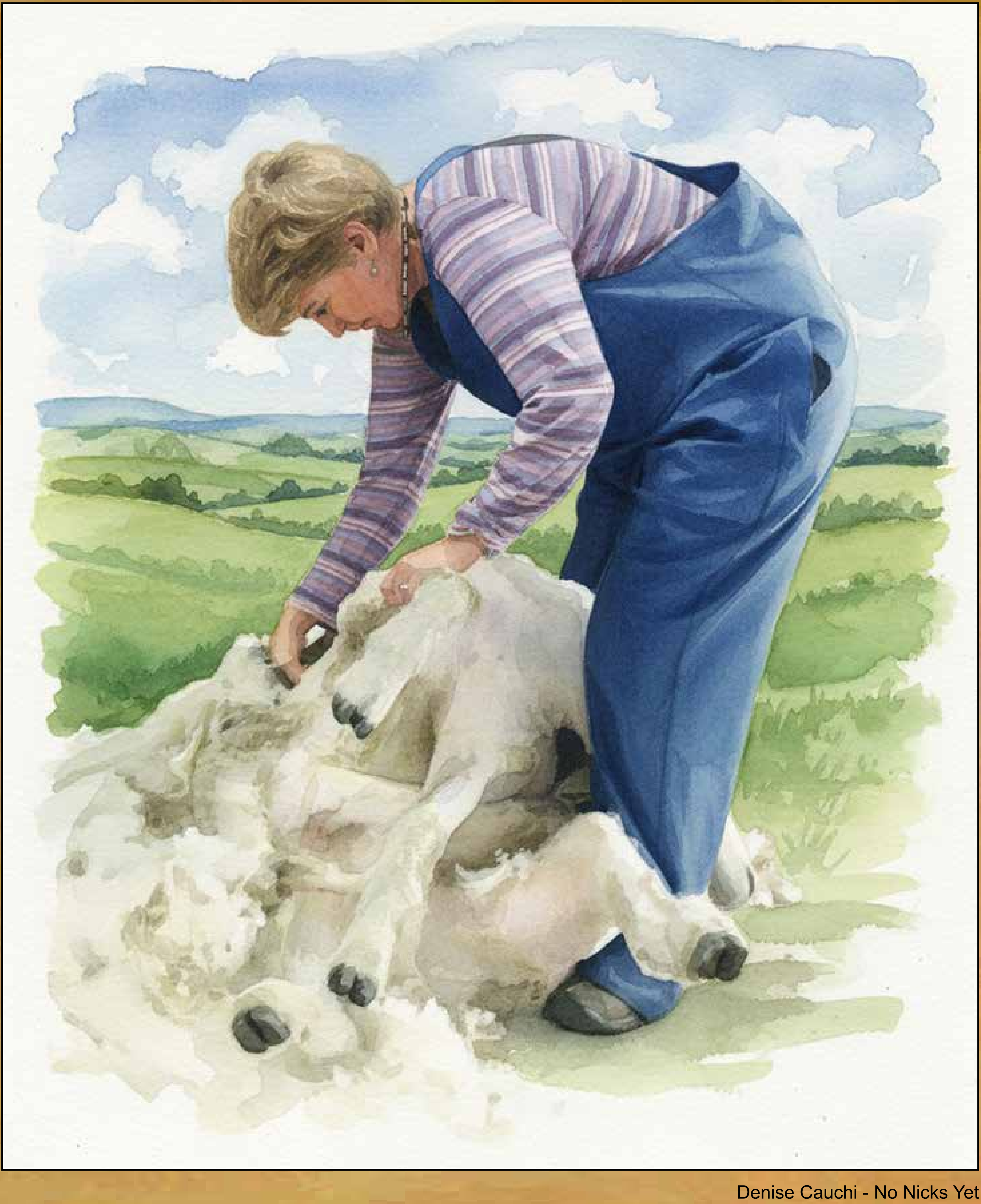
Ilona Abou-Zolof - Joyful Spirit



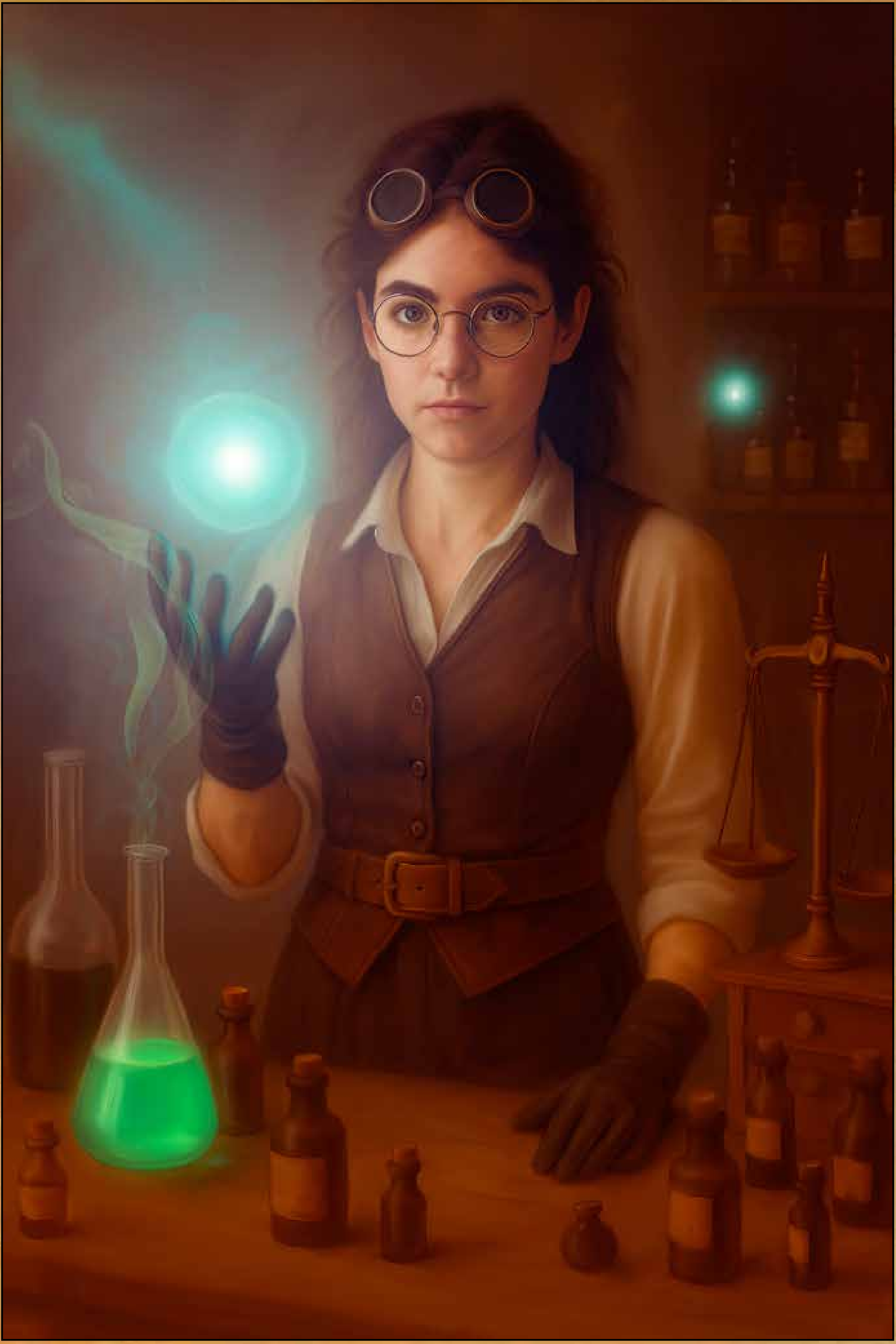
Bev Terawyskj - A Non Orange Halloween



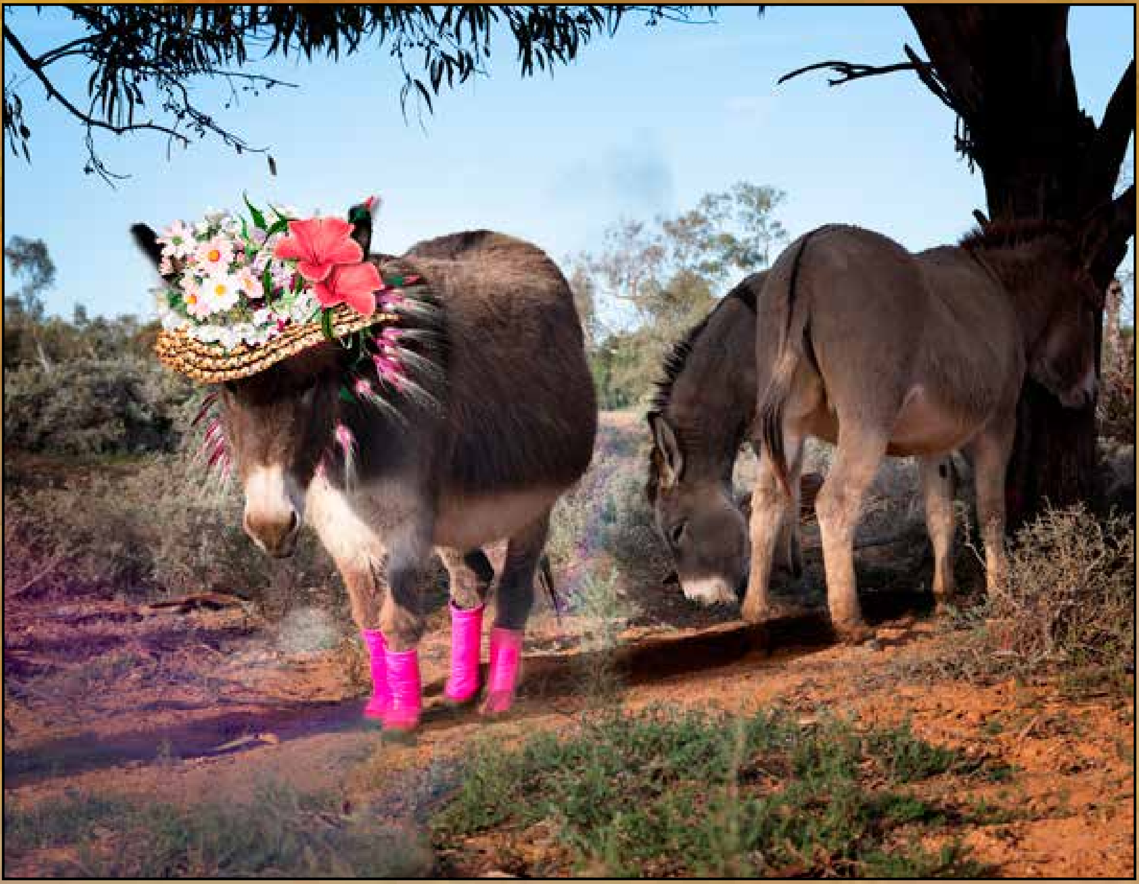
Christina Brunton - Dare To Be Different



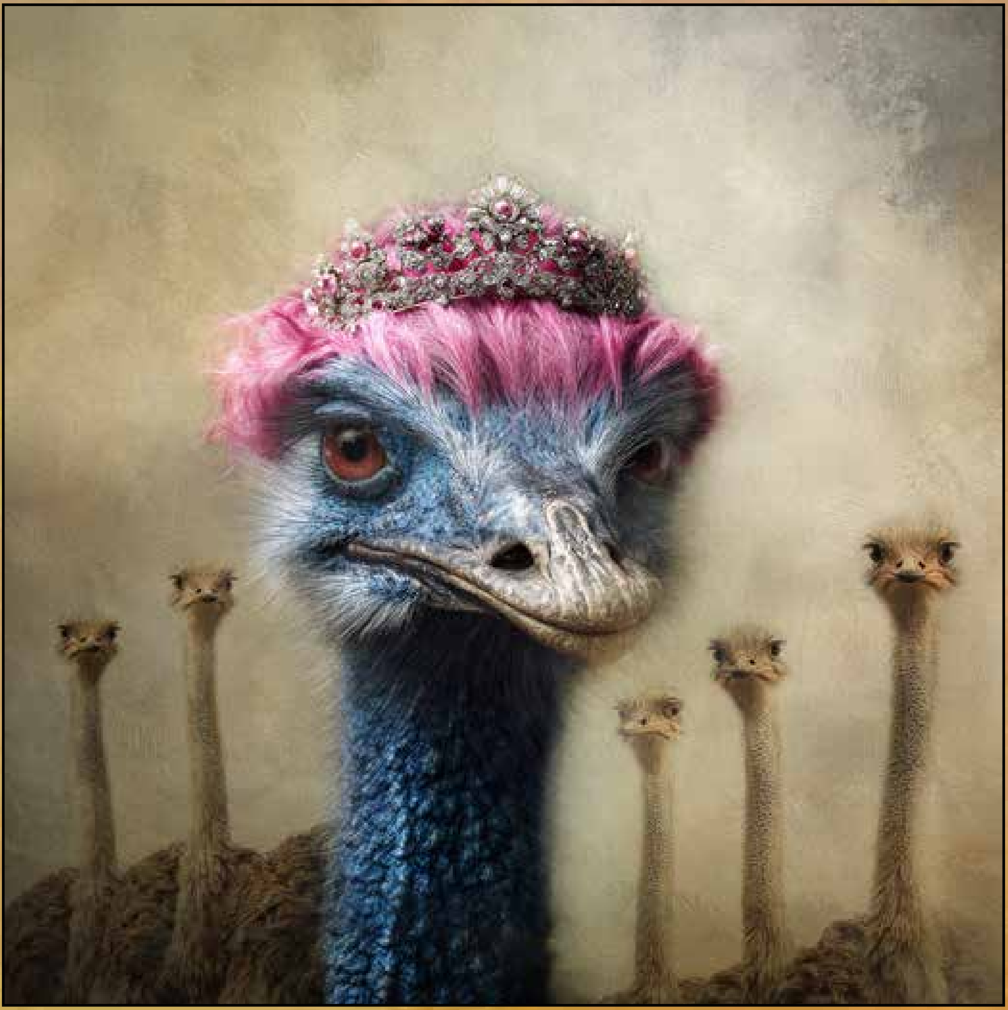
Denise Cauchi - No Nicks Yet



Julie Powell - The Alchemist II



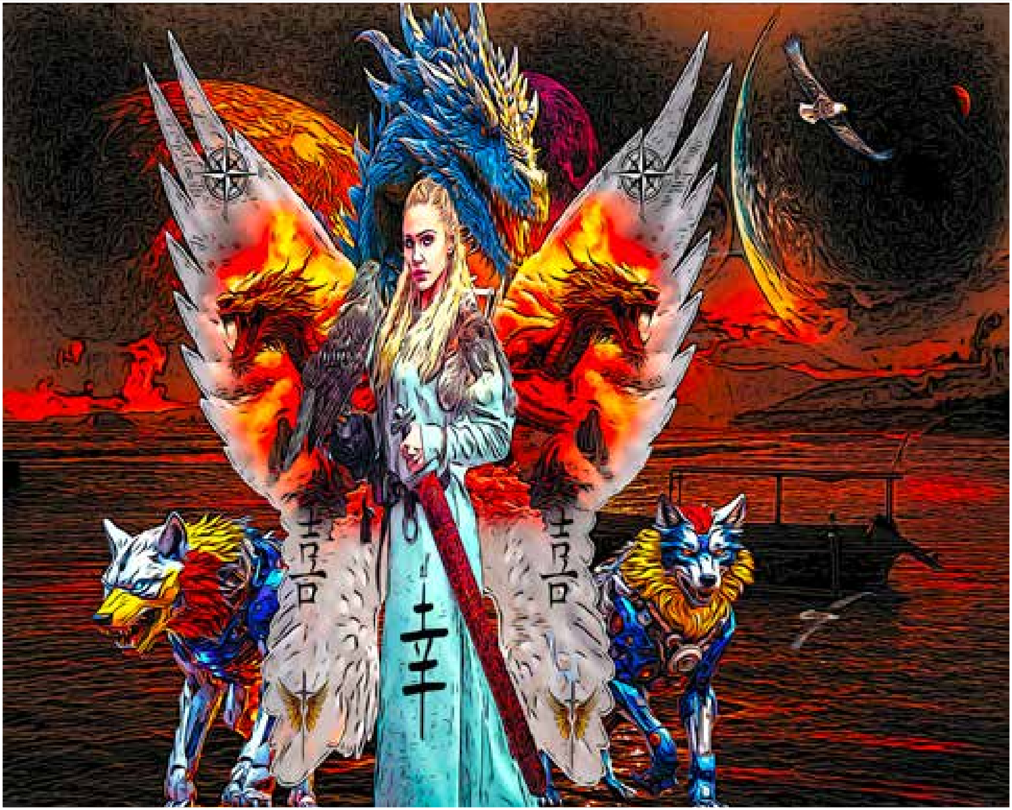
Prue Wright - Dare To Be Different



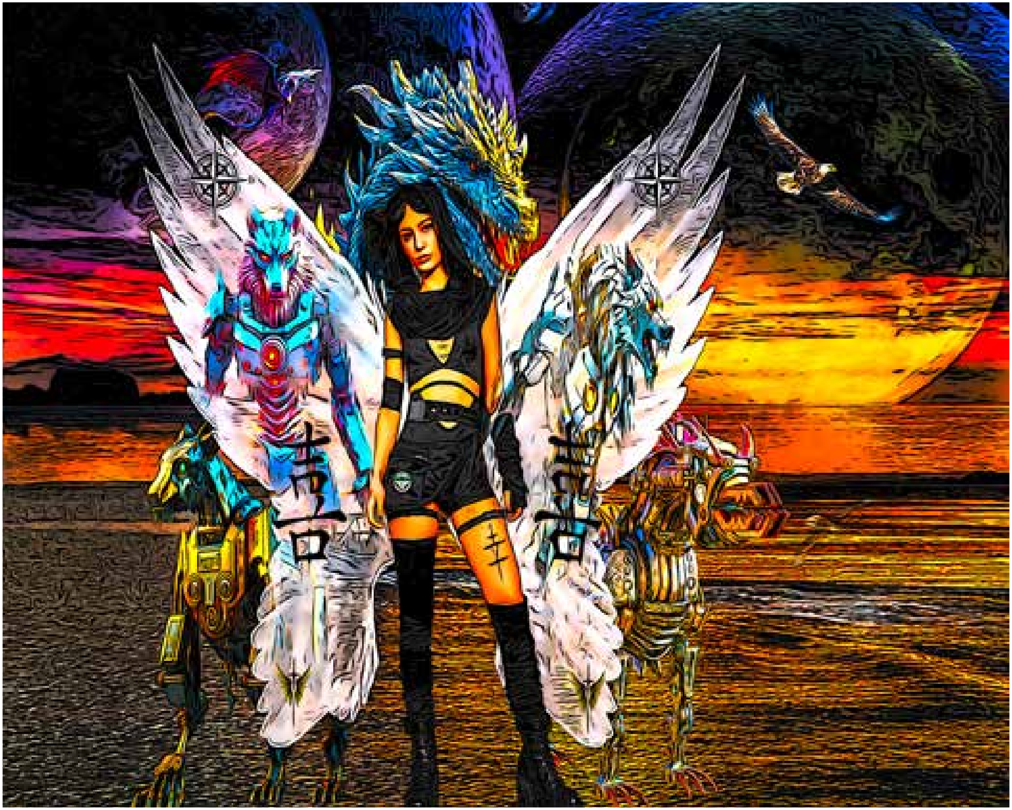
Karen Waalwyk - Dare To Be Different

MICK ROONEY (AUSTRALIA)

https://www.artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-3/mick-rooney/



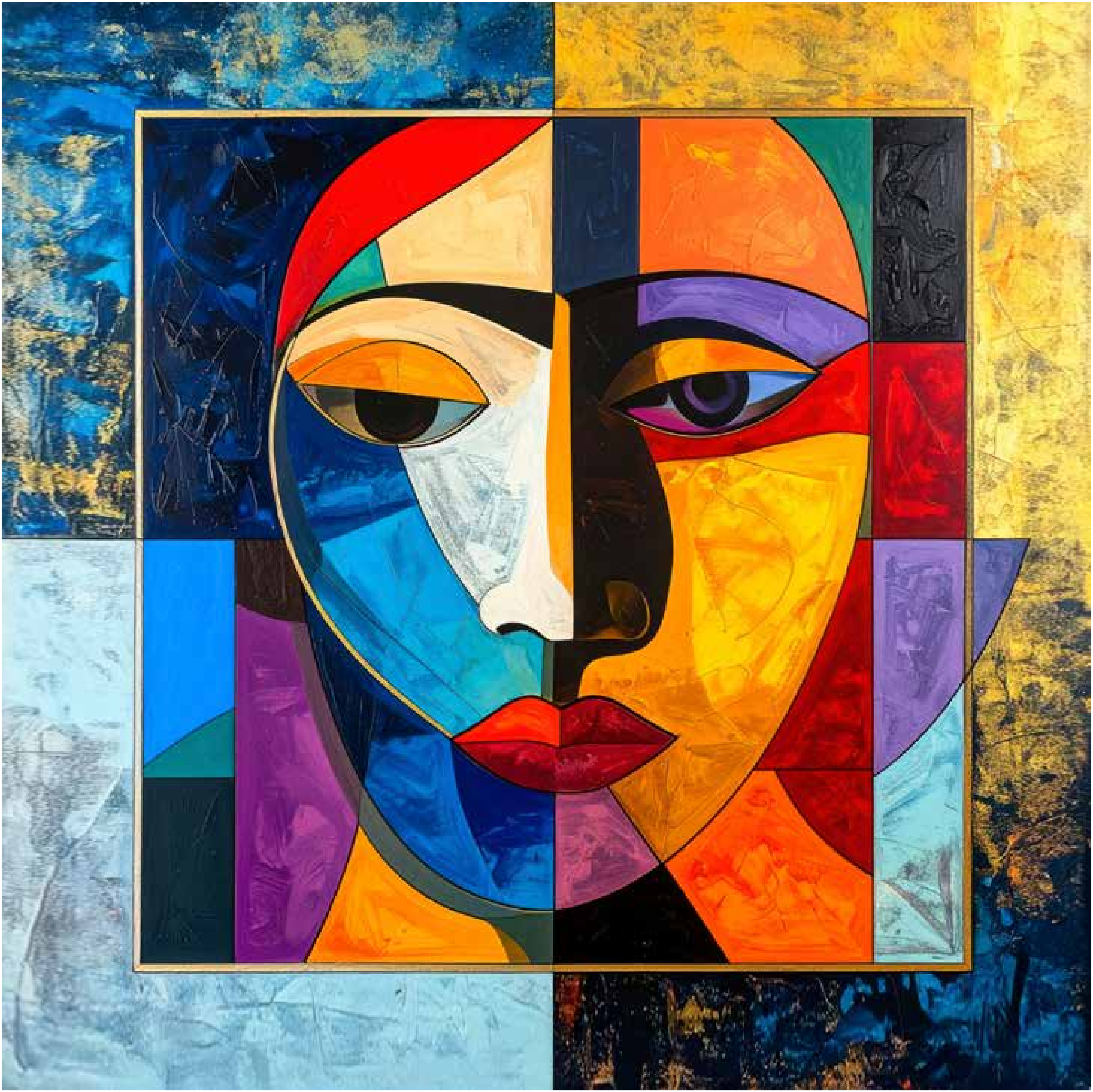
UNDO



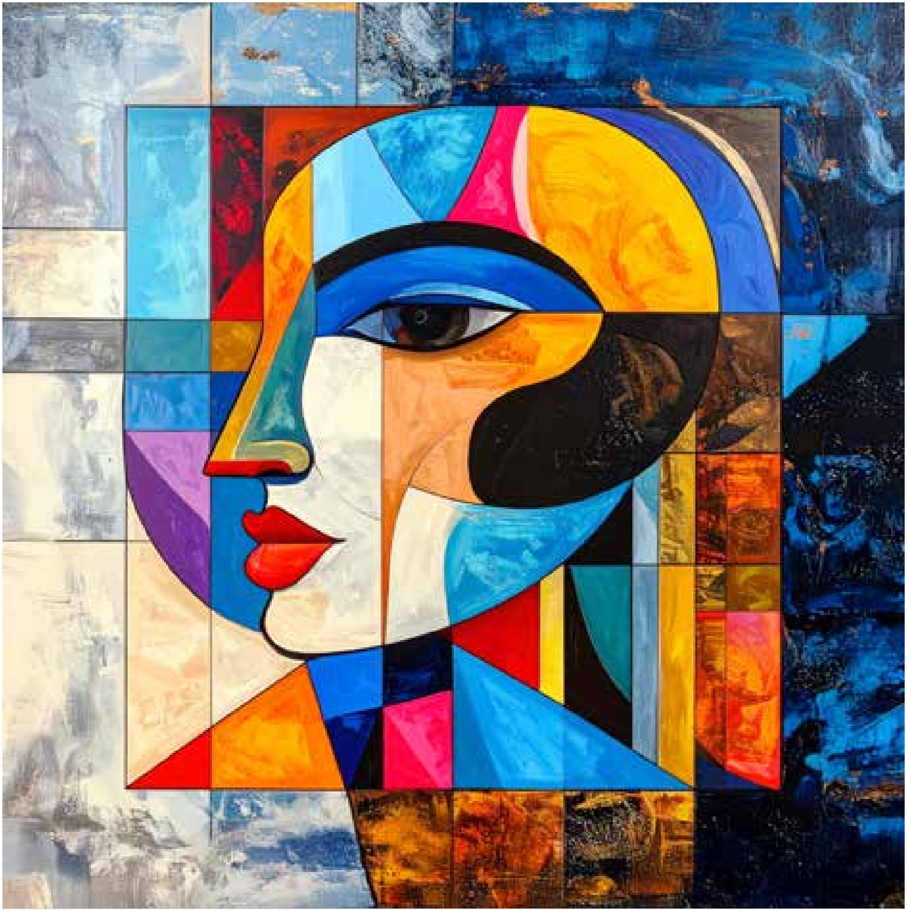
WILD SPIRIT

ILONA ABOU-ZOLOF (AUSTRALIA)

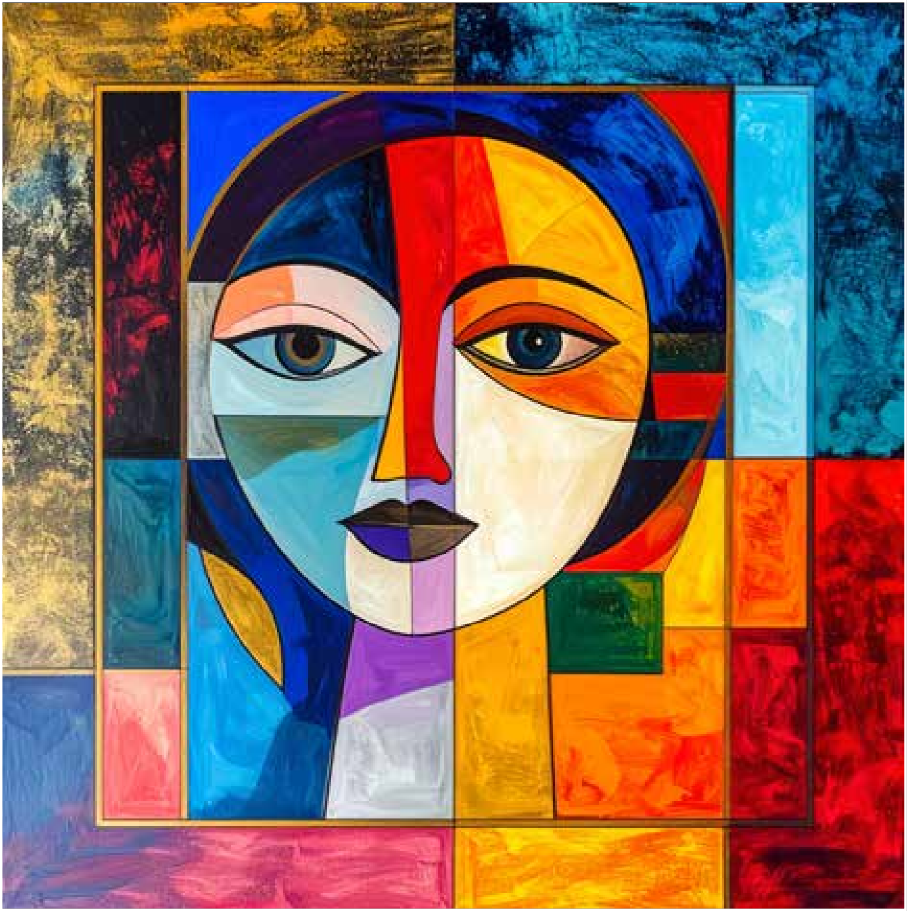
FACES OF COLOUR



DUAL ECLIPSE



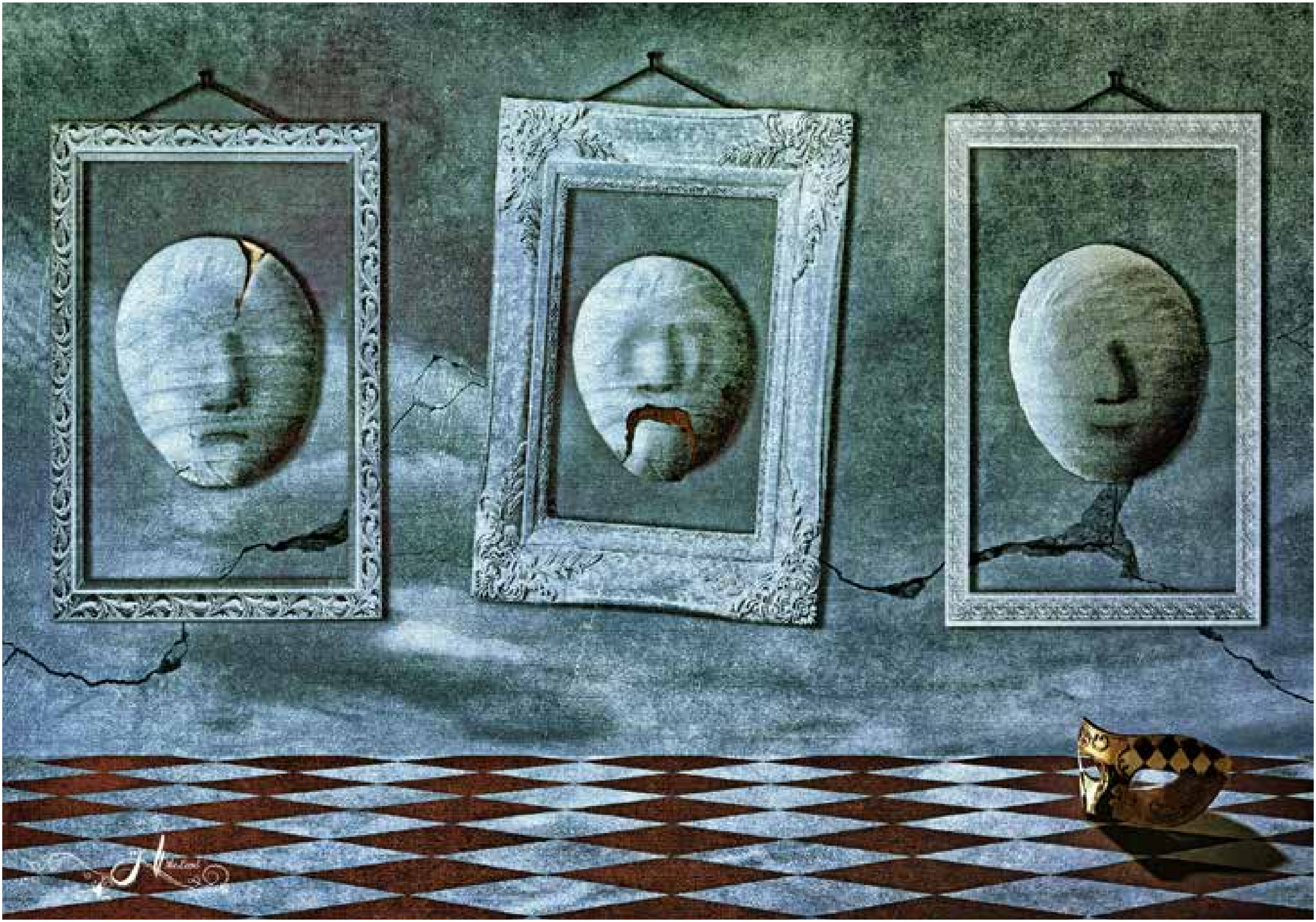
FRAGMENTED FLAME



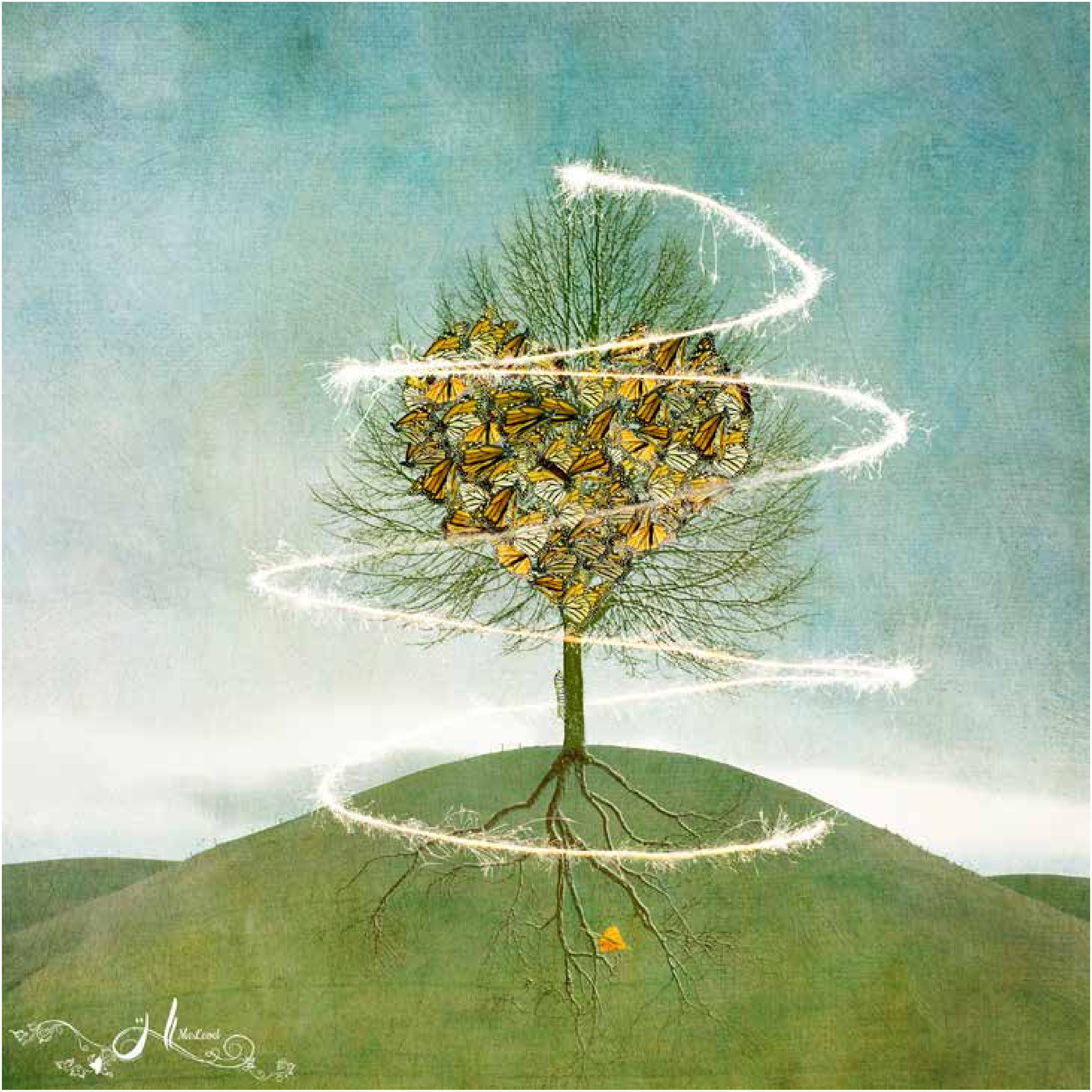
SPECTRUM FACE

HELEN MCLEOD (NEW ZEALAND)

https://www.2-galleries.com/



THE GALLERY

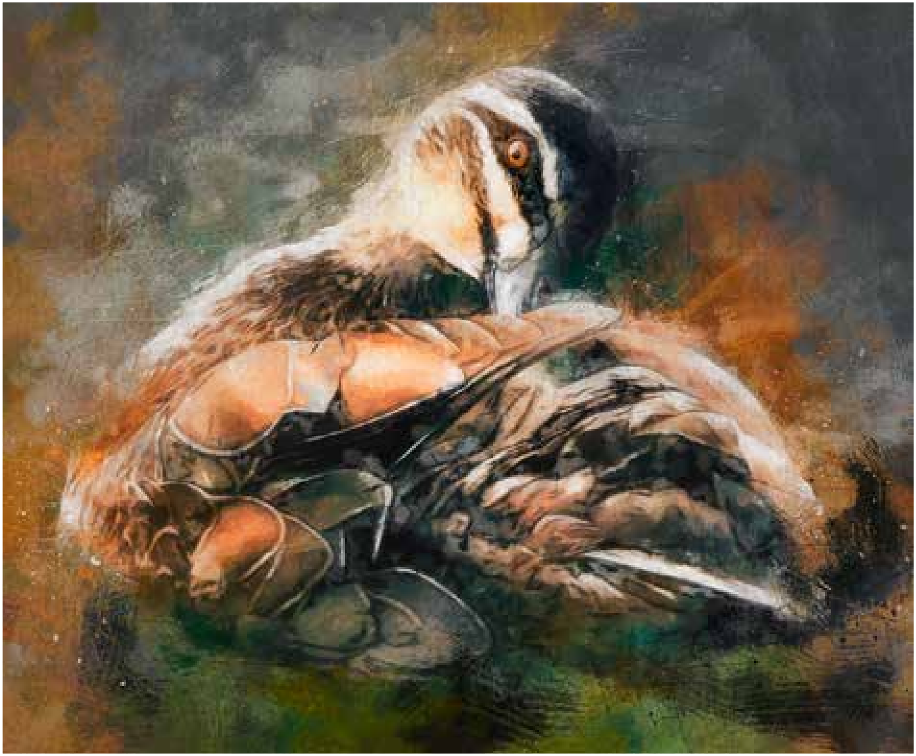


WHEN BUTTERFLIES GATHER

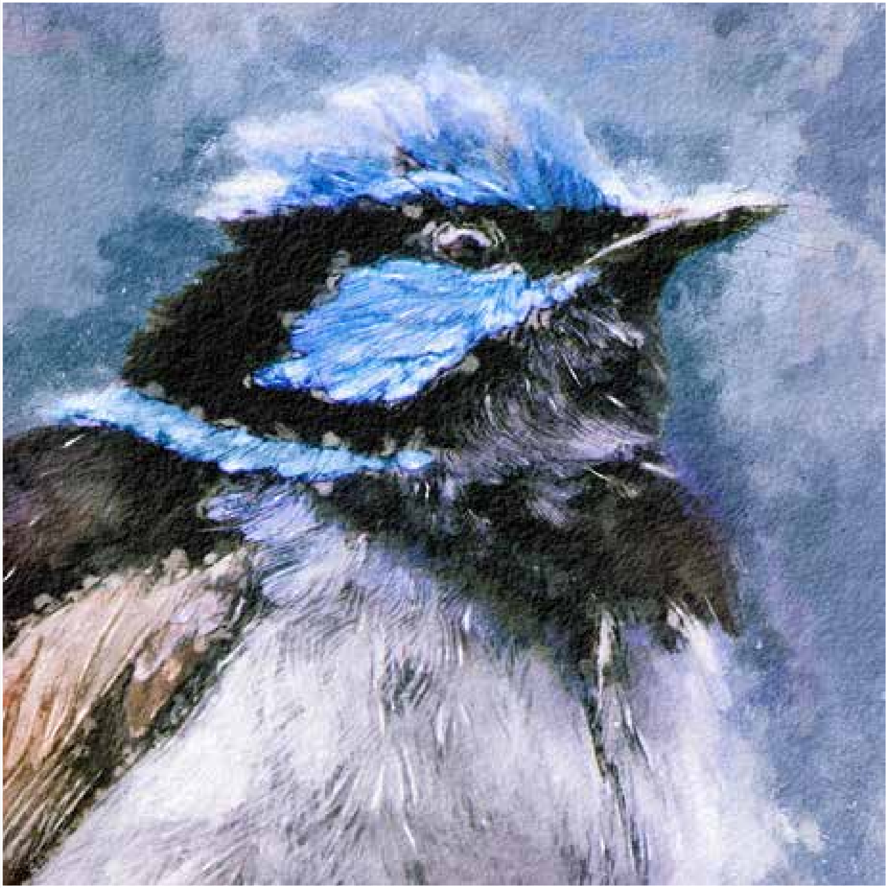
ANDREW HAYSOM (AUSTRALIA)

https://andrewhaysom.myportfolio.com/

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artists-1/andrew-haysom/



PACIFIC BLACK DUCK



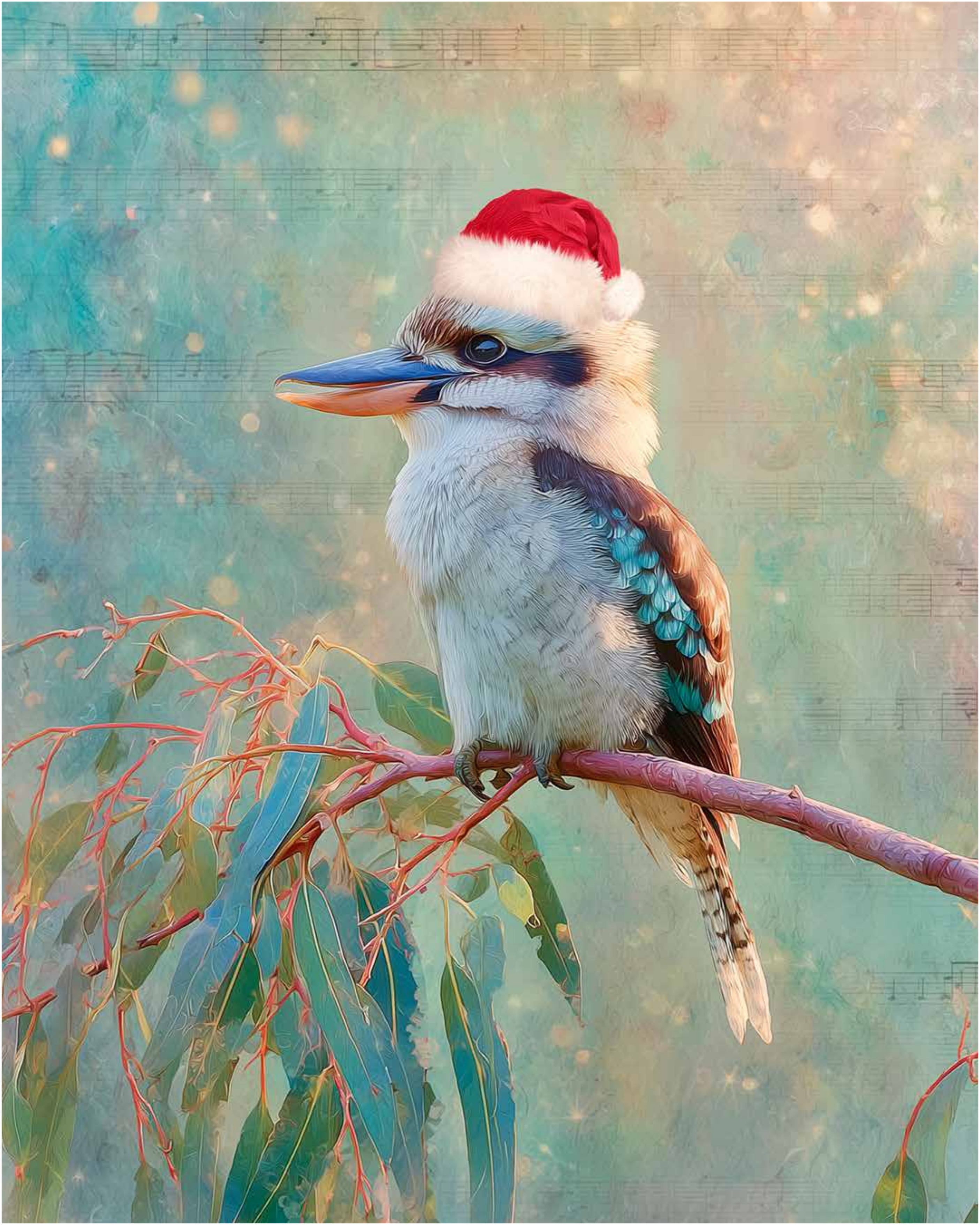
SUPERB FAIRYWREN

ART

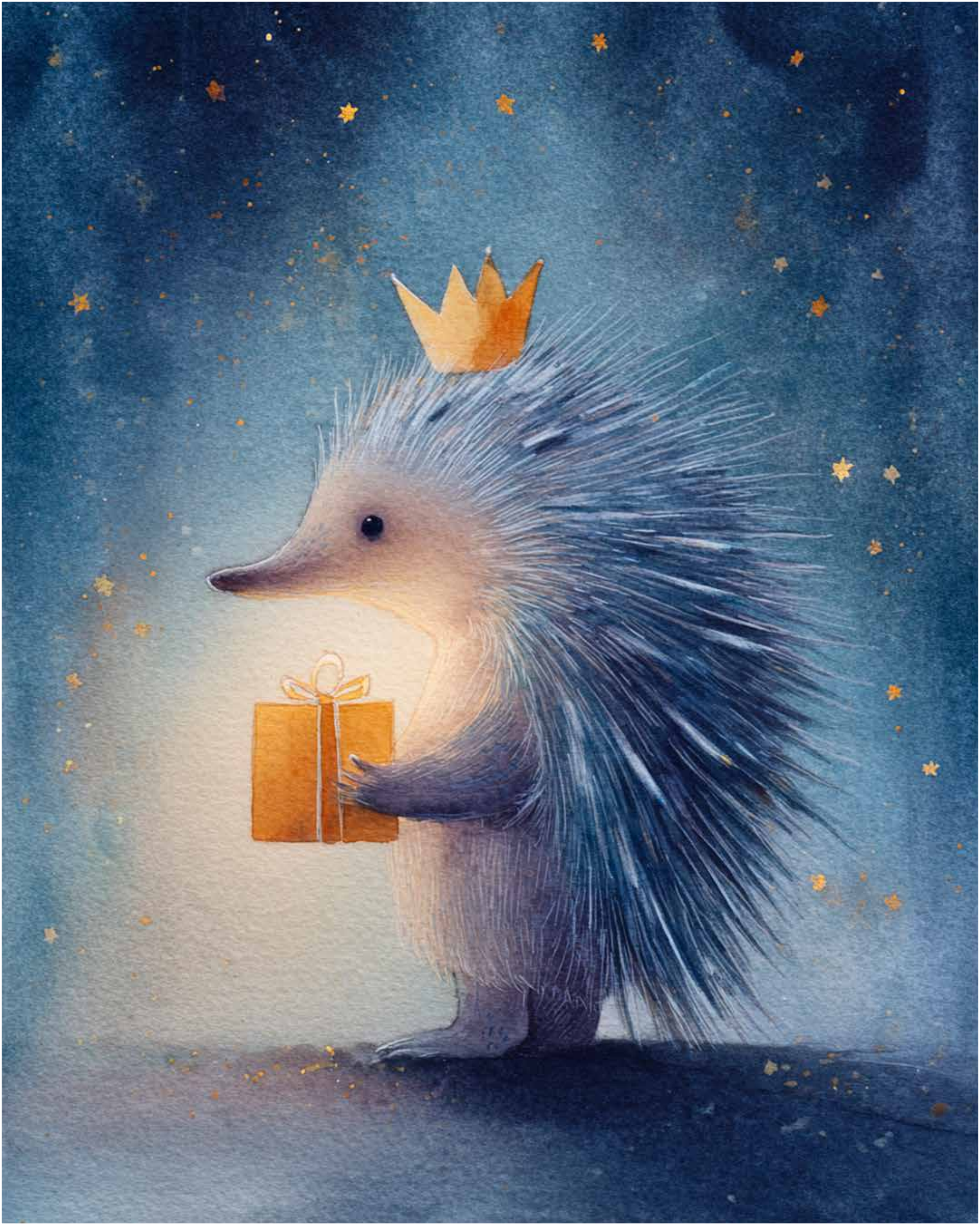
BY

CHRISTINA BRUNTON

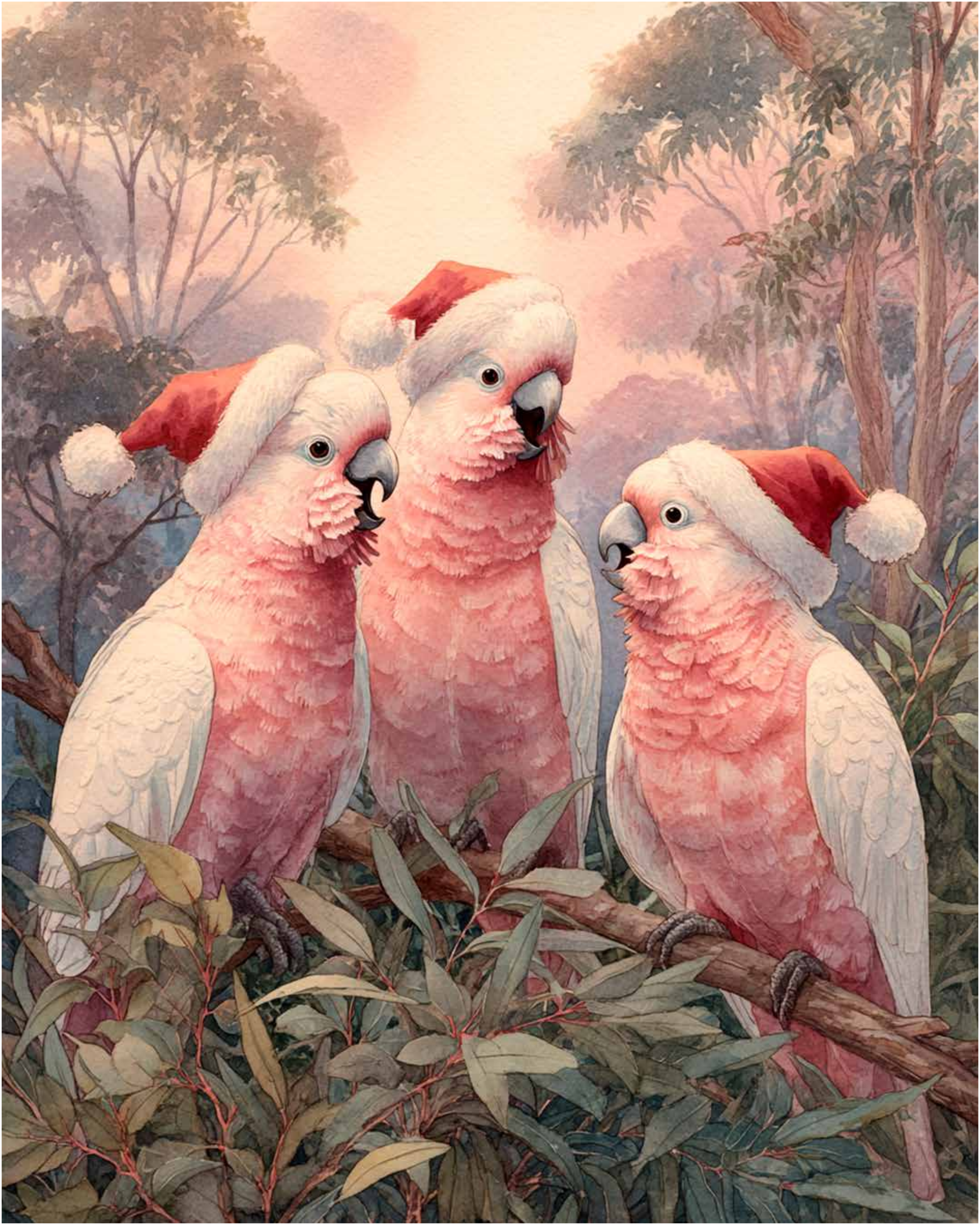
CHRISTMAS



KOOKABURRA XMAS



ECHIDNA



PINK COCKATOOS

A COLLABORATIVE GROUP OF PHOTO ARTISTS

QUOTE CHALLENGE

by the Art Buddies

A bit of background first:

In our Art Buddies group, we're a vibrant mix of ADU members from across Australia, each contributing individual talents and viewpoints. Our 'Art Buddies' team includes Christina Brunton, Denise Cauchi, Ilona Abou-Zolof, Marie Helyar, Marina Hobbs, Robyn McLauchlan and Ngaire Danvers. We gather regularly on Zoom, taking turns to set our creative challenges.

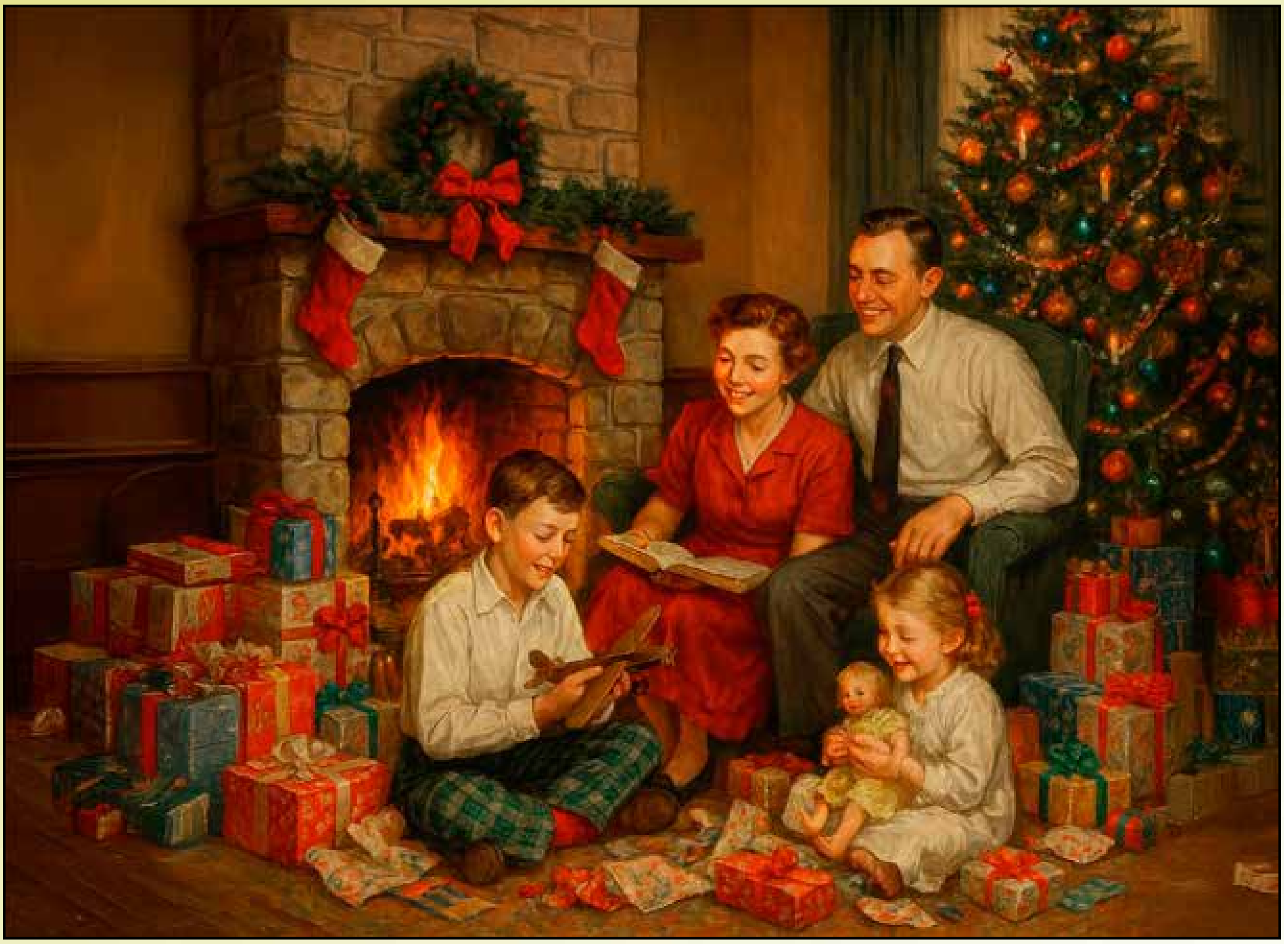
Challenge: "Christmas - Norman Rockwell Style"

This challenge was set by Denise Cauchi.

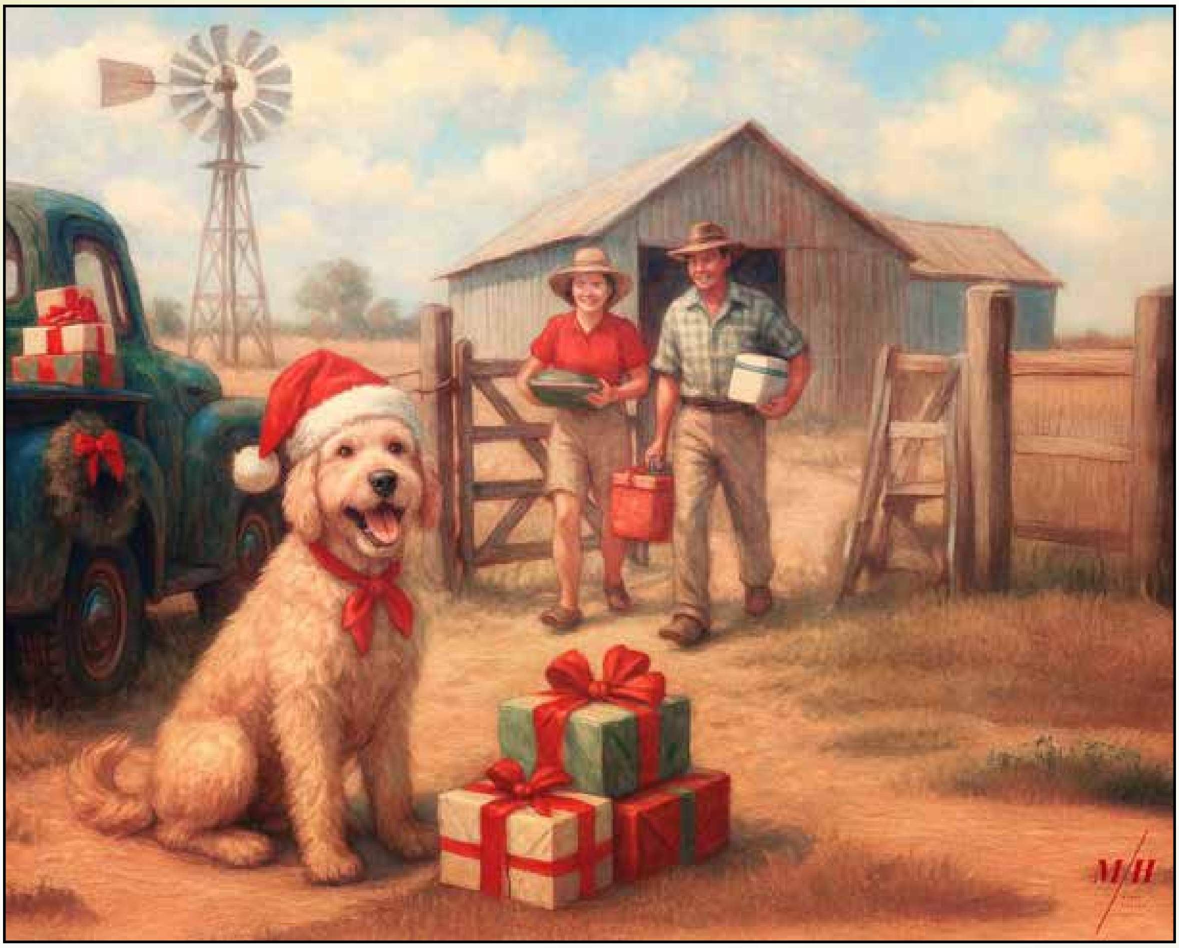
A Christmas Scene inspired by a Norman Rockwell painting.

Our Art Creations:

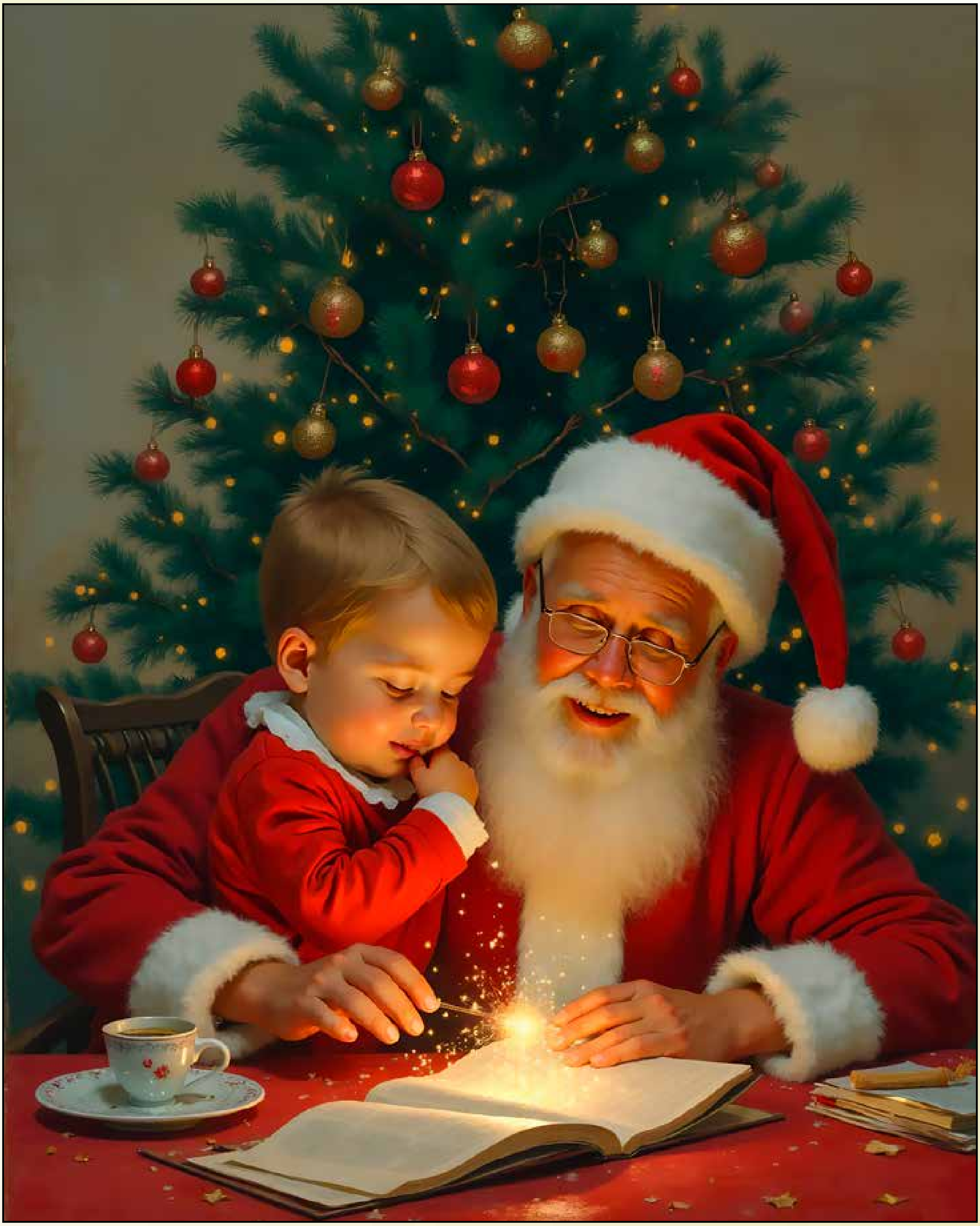
We hope our creations motivate you to share your own interpretation on the Artists Down Under Facebook page. Your artistic expression matters to us, and we are excited to see what you create!



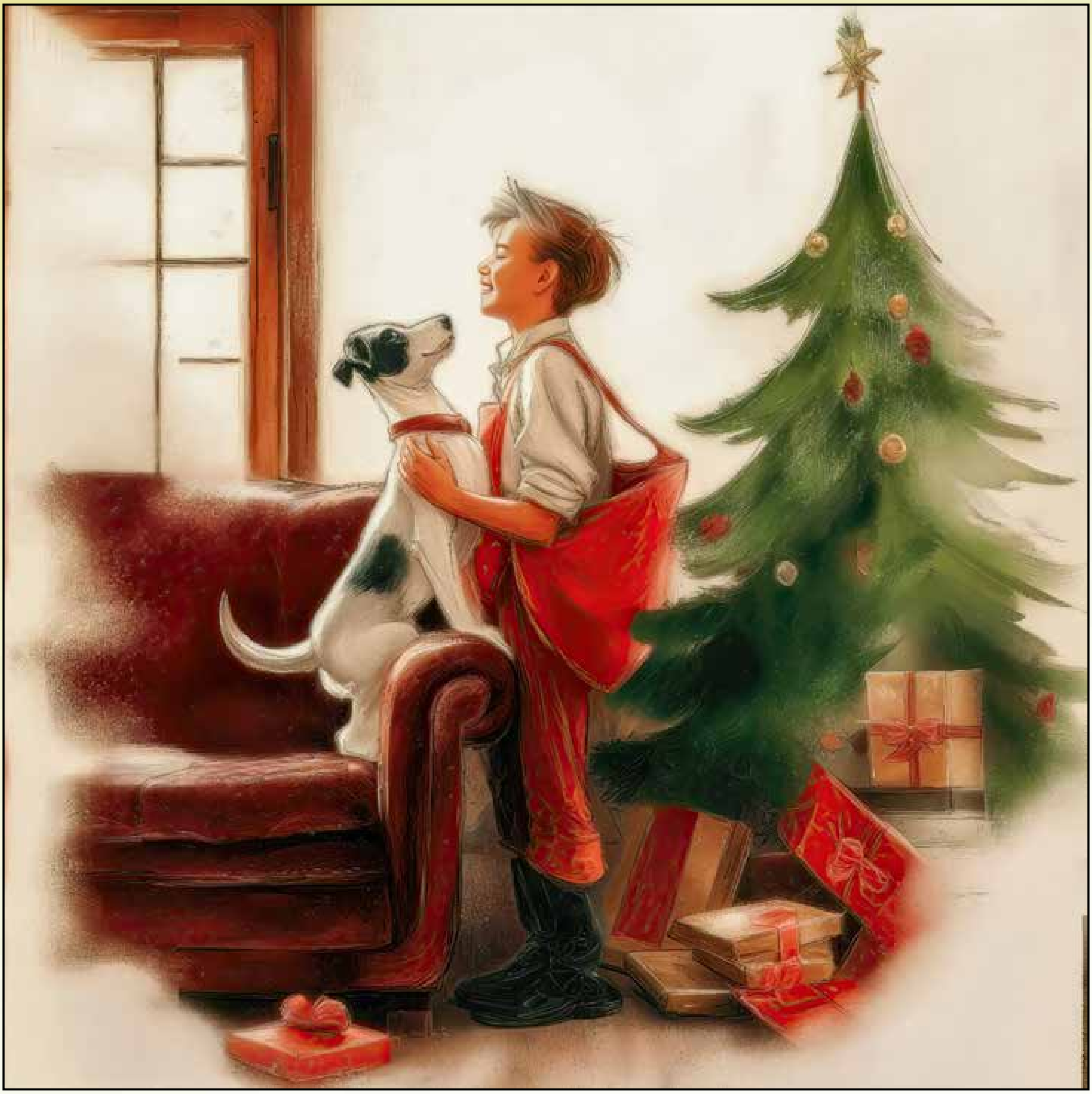
Denise Cauchi - Winter Christmas 1950's



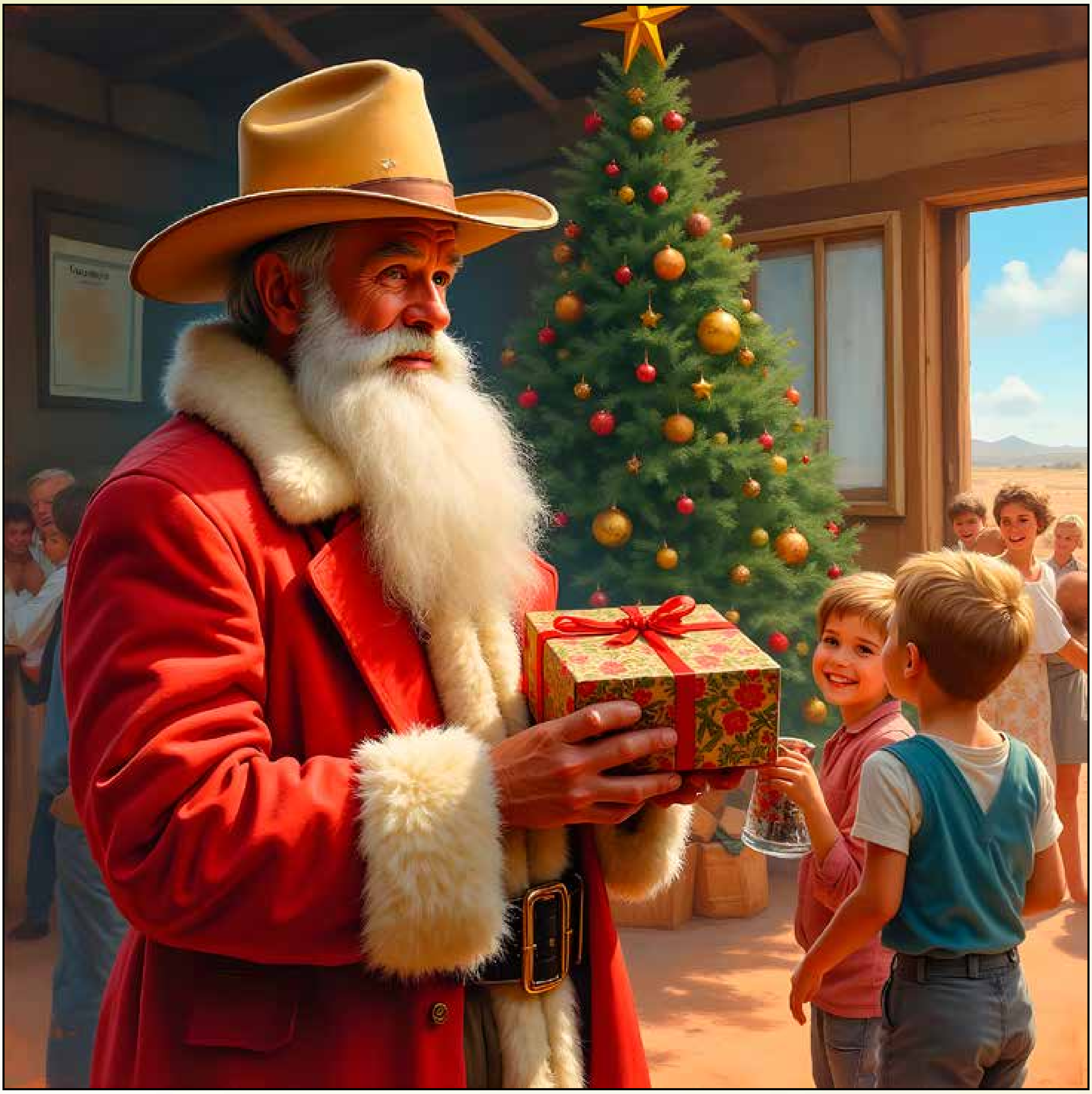
Marie Helyar - Christmas At The Farm Gate



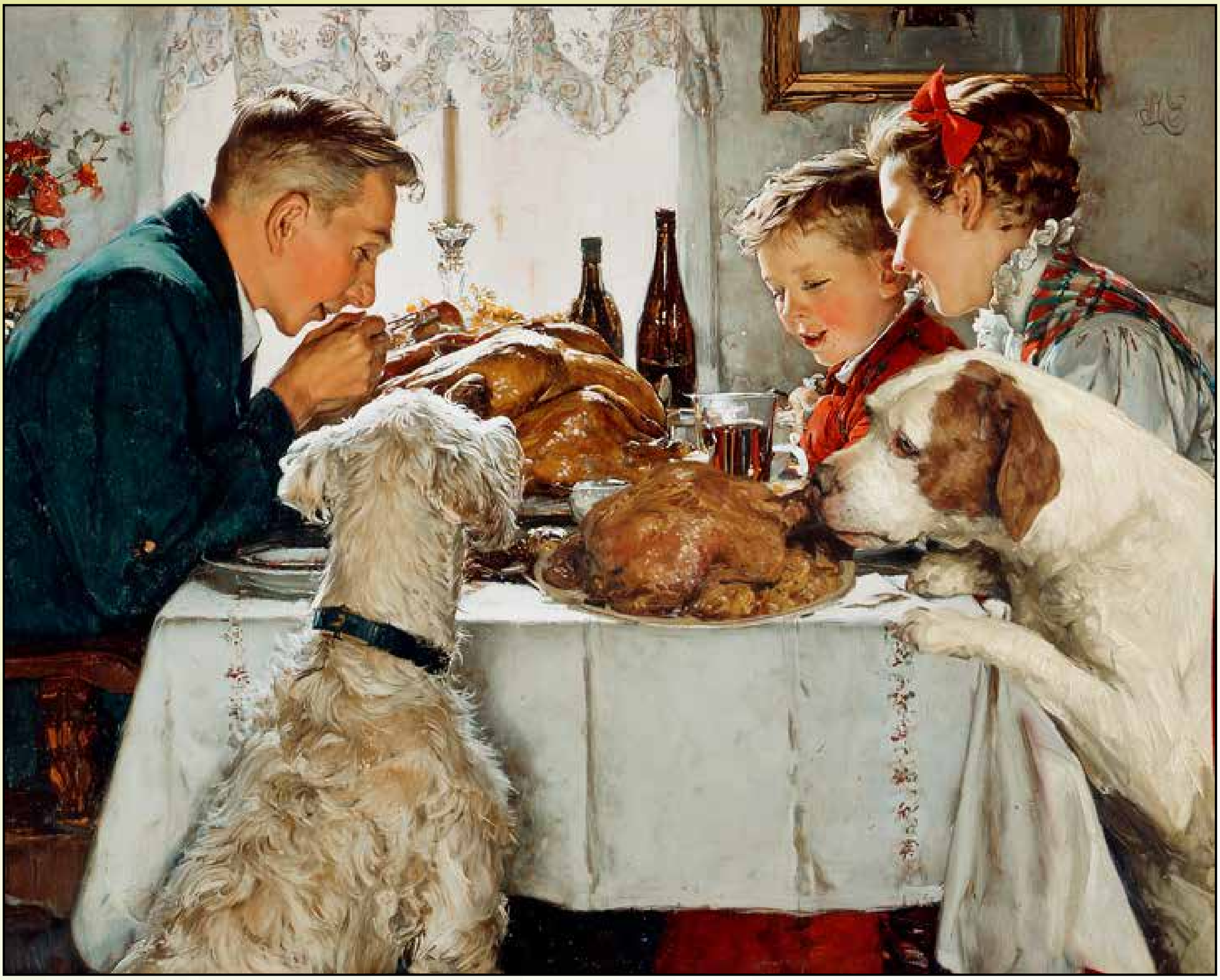
Robyn McLauchlan - Norman Rockwell Christmas



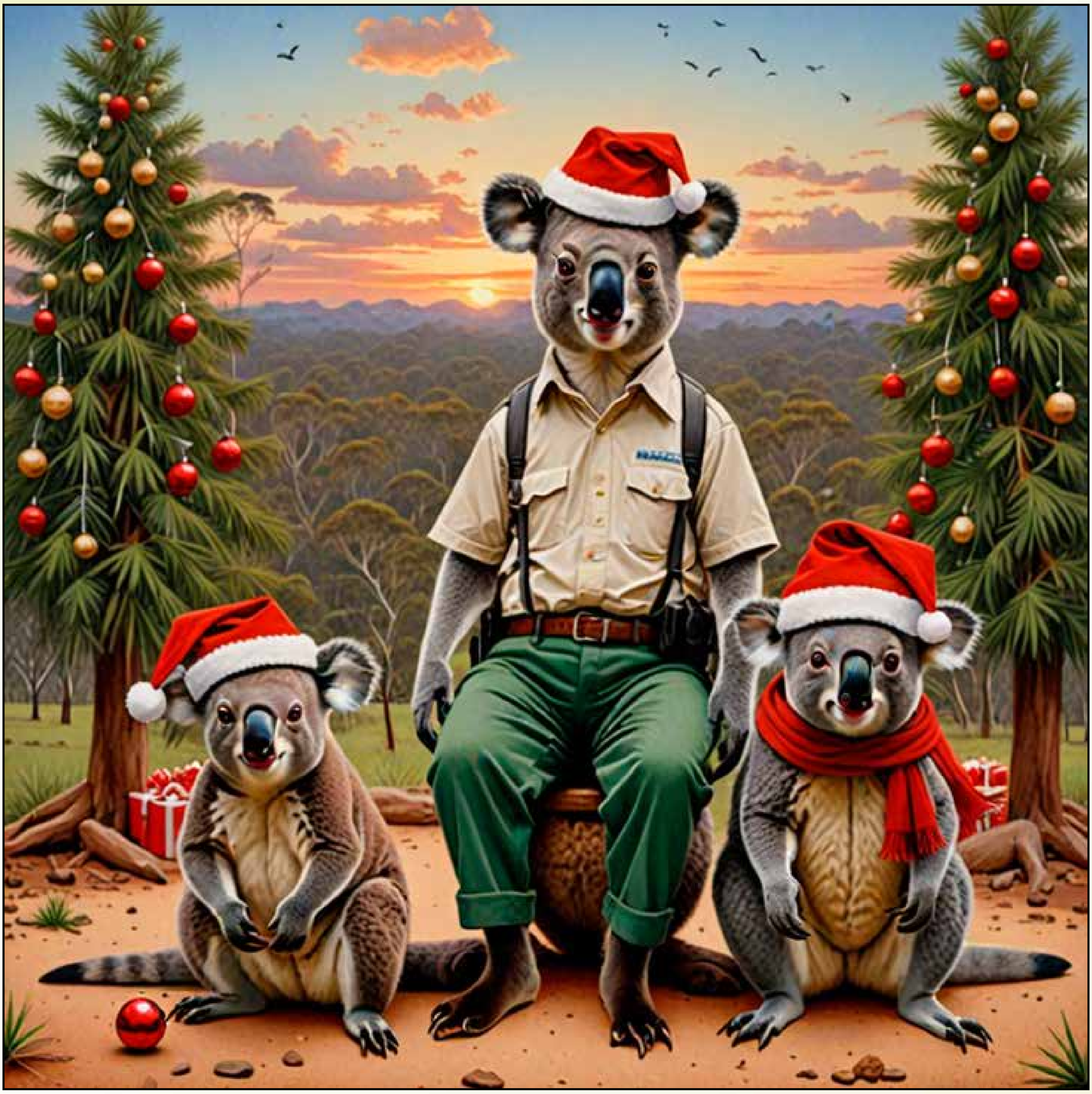
Ilona Abou-Zolof - My Best Friend



Marina Hobbs - Christmas At The CWA



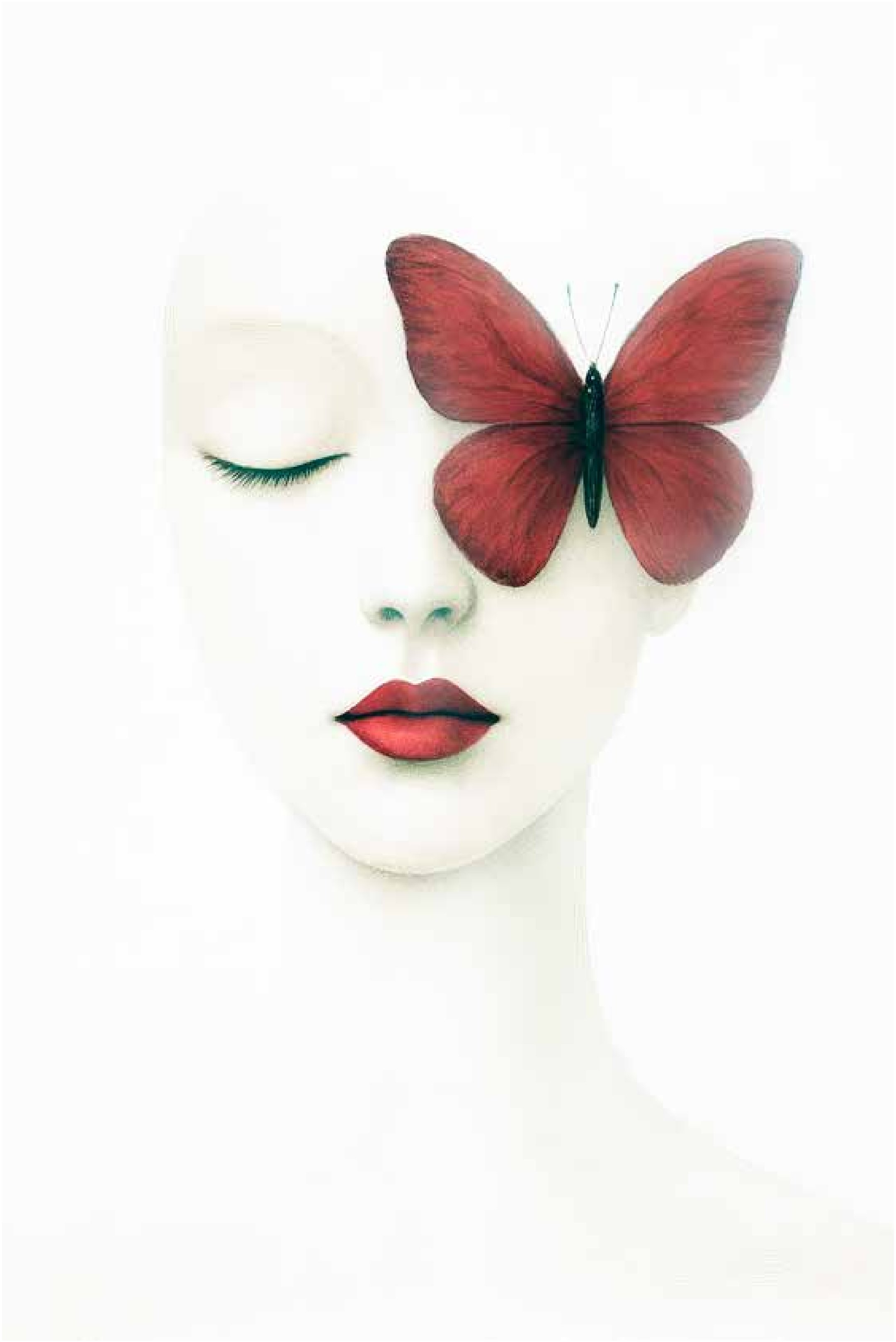
Christina Brunton - Christmas Family Feast



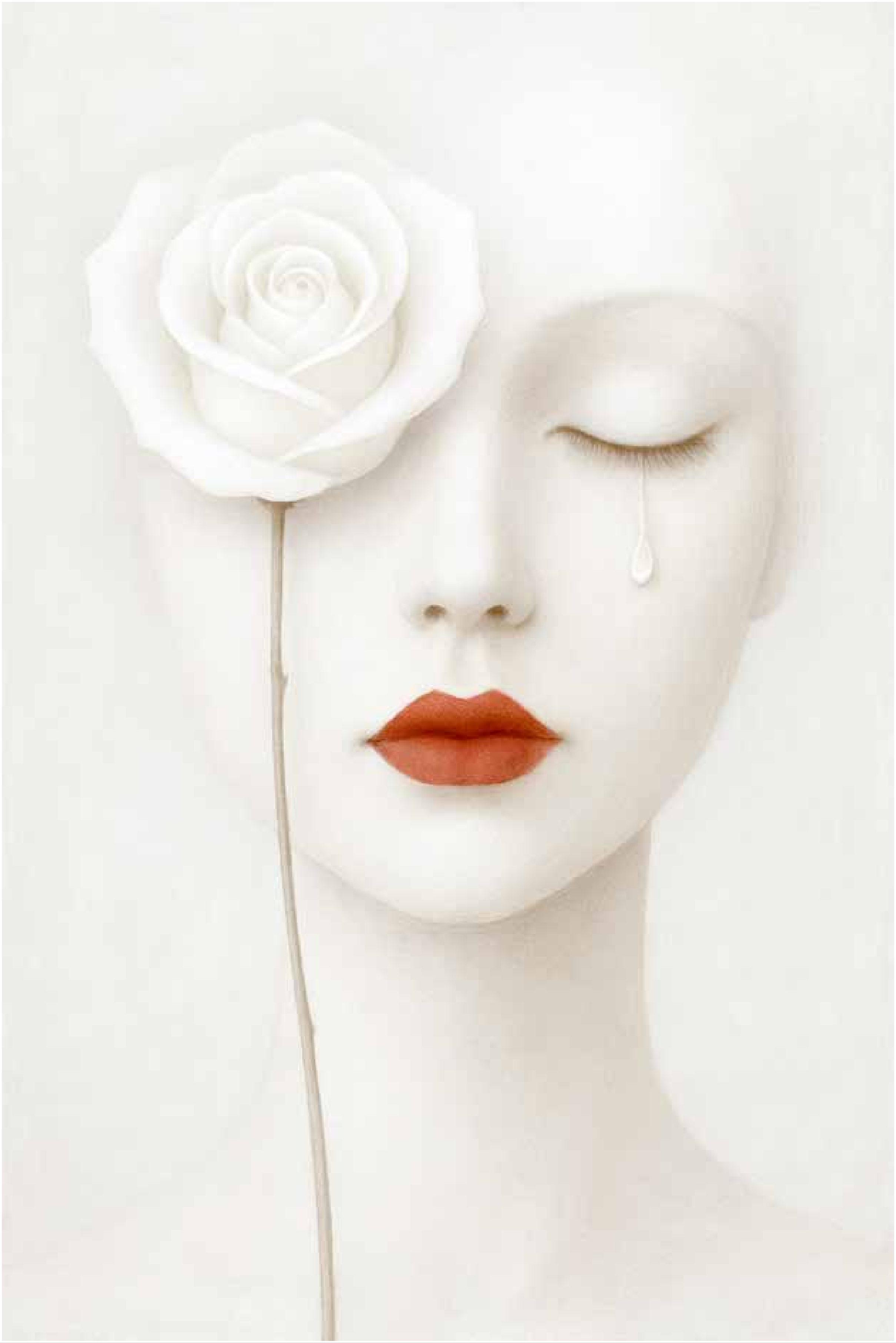
Ngaire Danvers - Norman Rockwell Christmas

SANDRA DANN (AUSTRALIA)

https://www.sandradimagery.com/

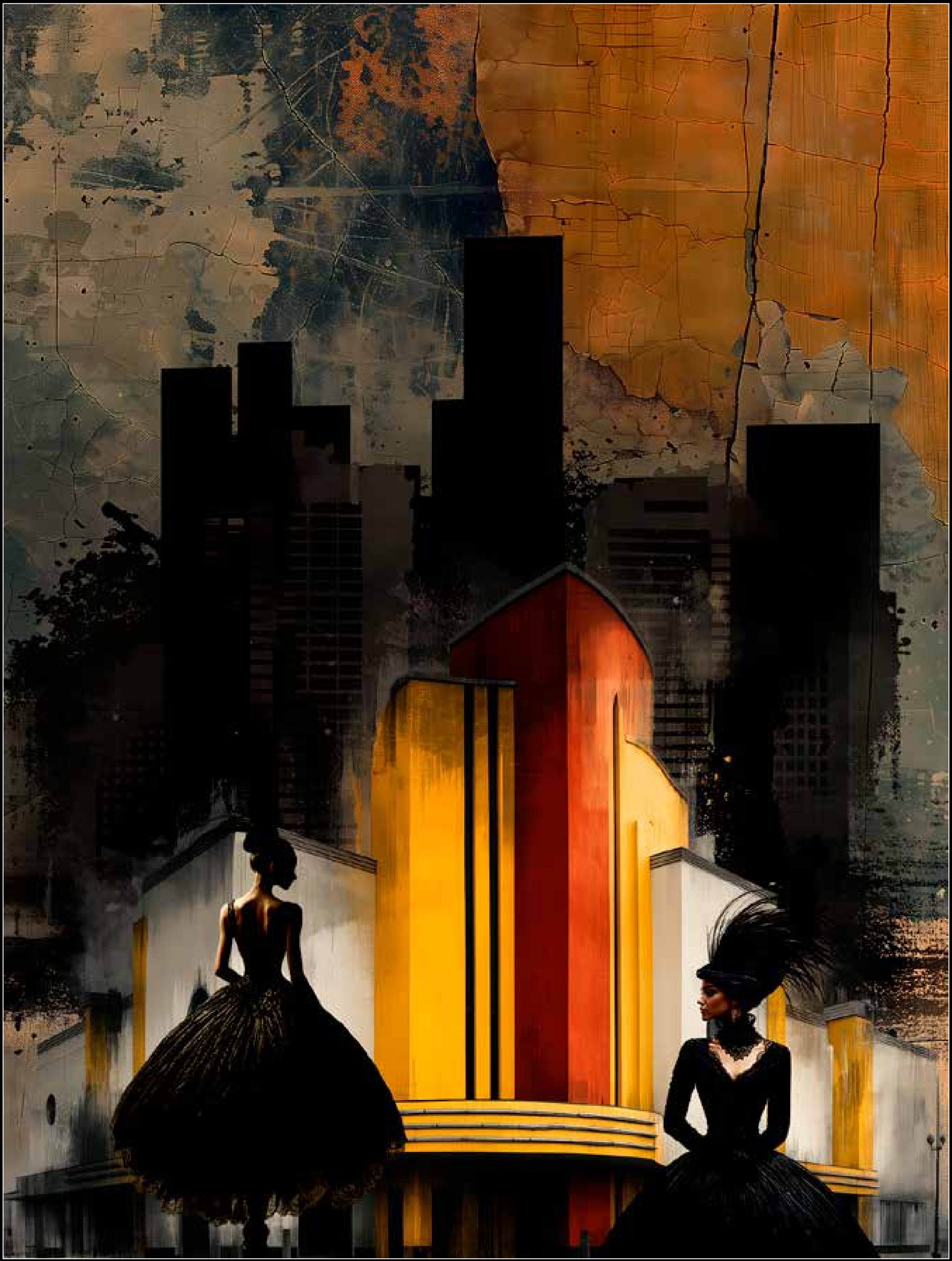


AWAKEN

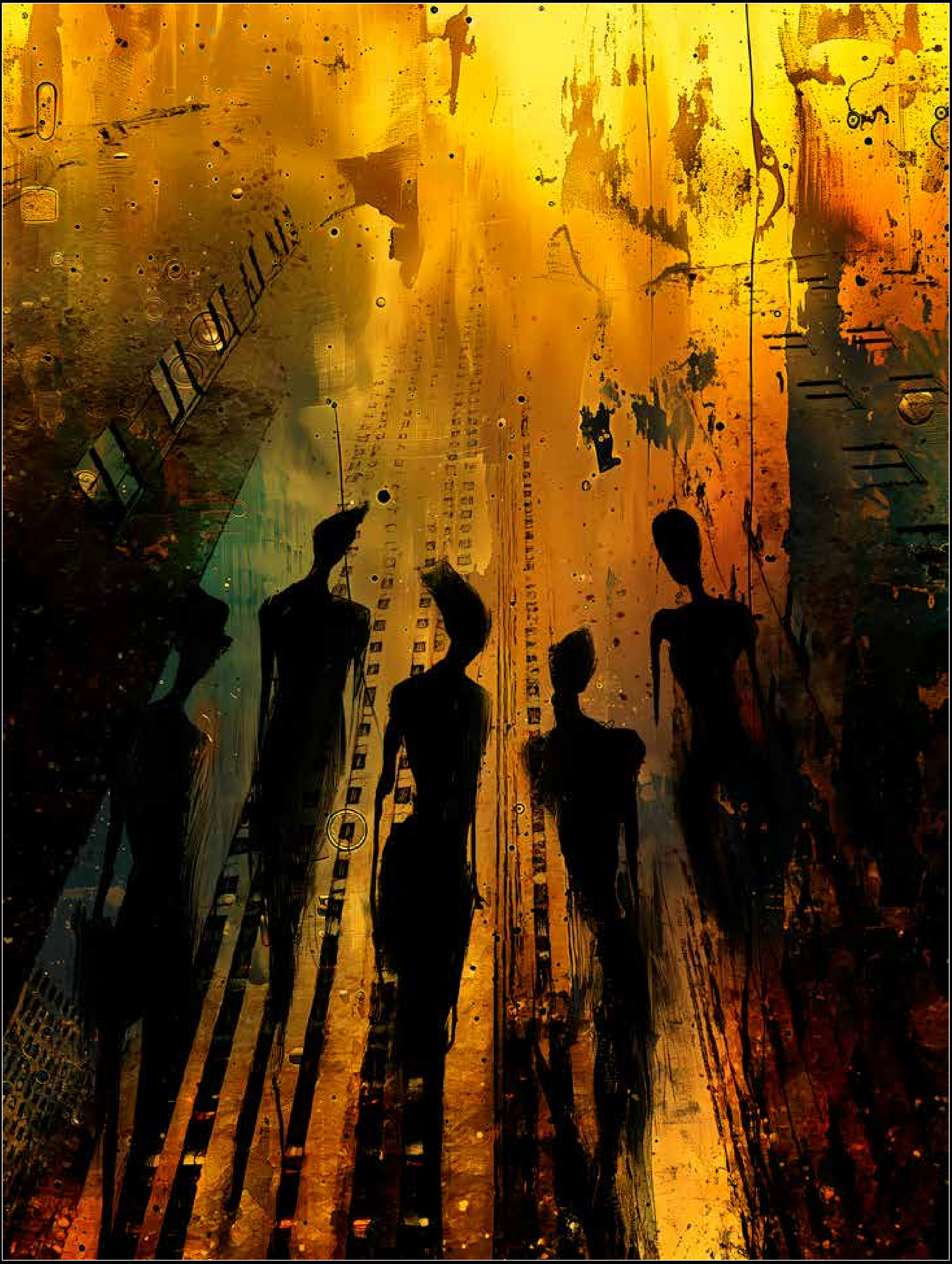


HIDDEN MASK

PRUE WRIGHT (AUSTRALIA)



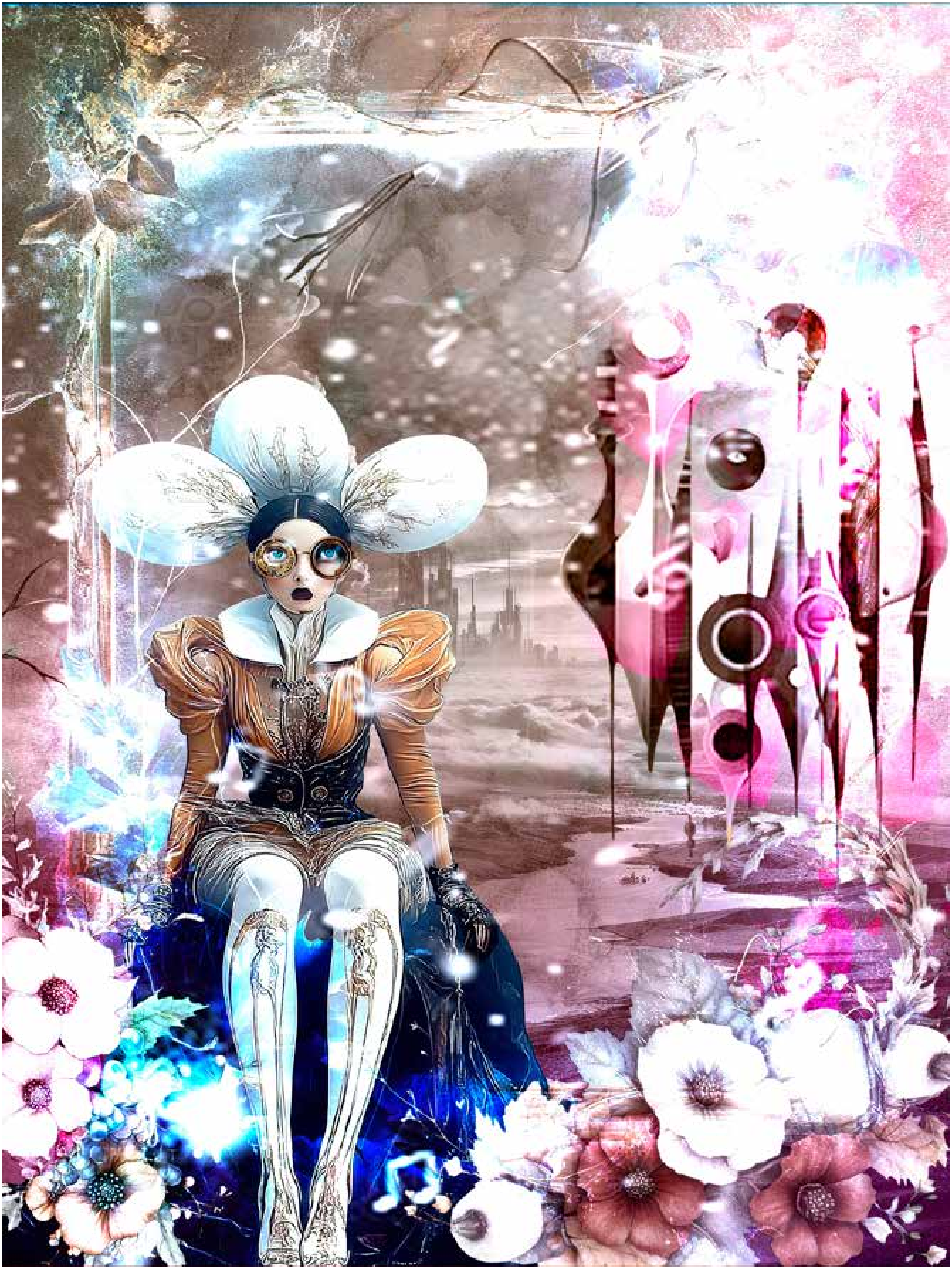
COMPETITION



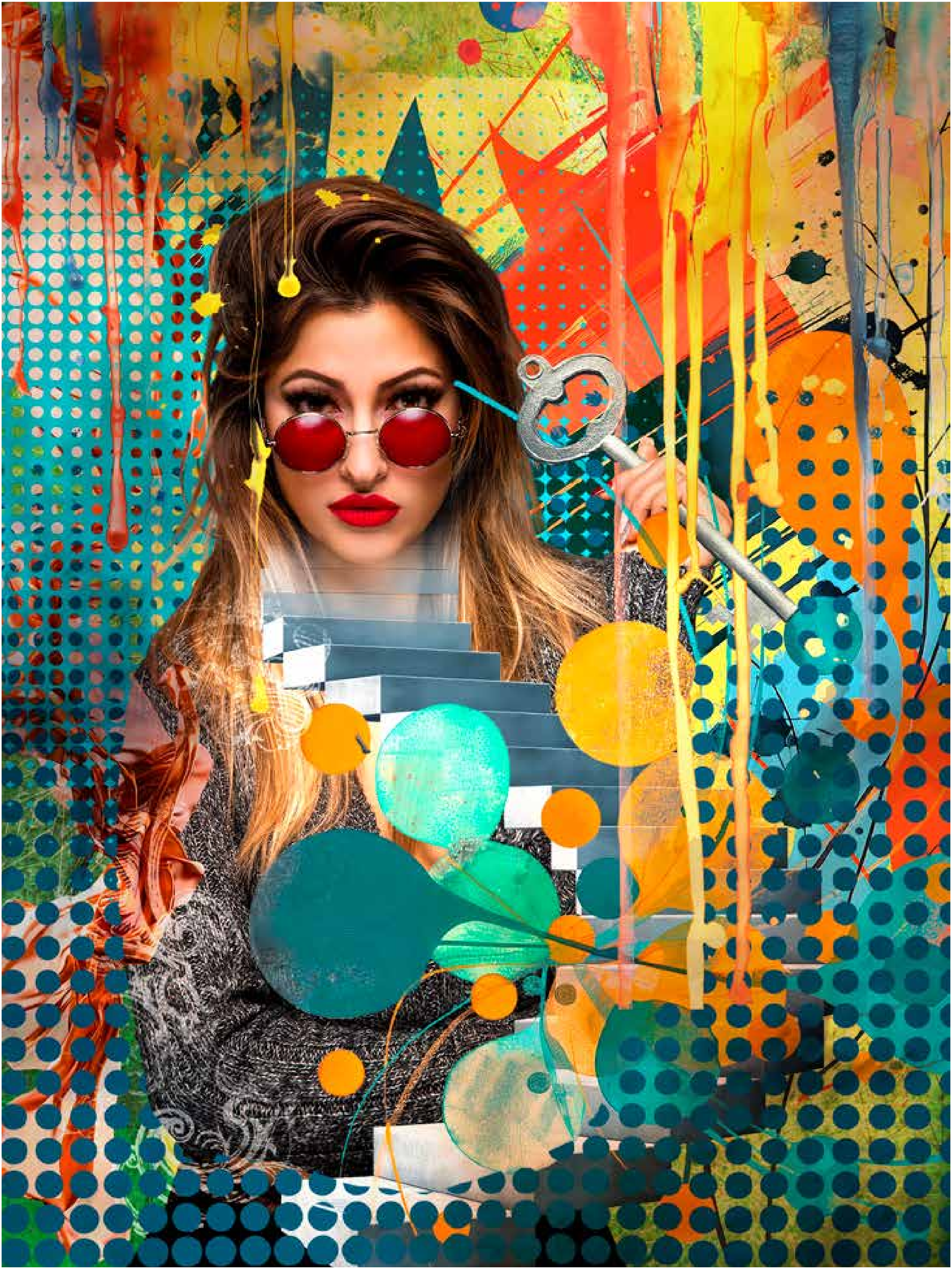
OUT ON THE TOWN

BEV TERAWSKYJ (AUSTRALIA)

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artists-1/bev-terawskyj/



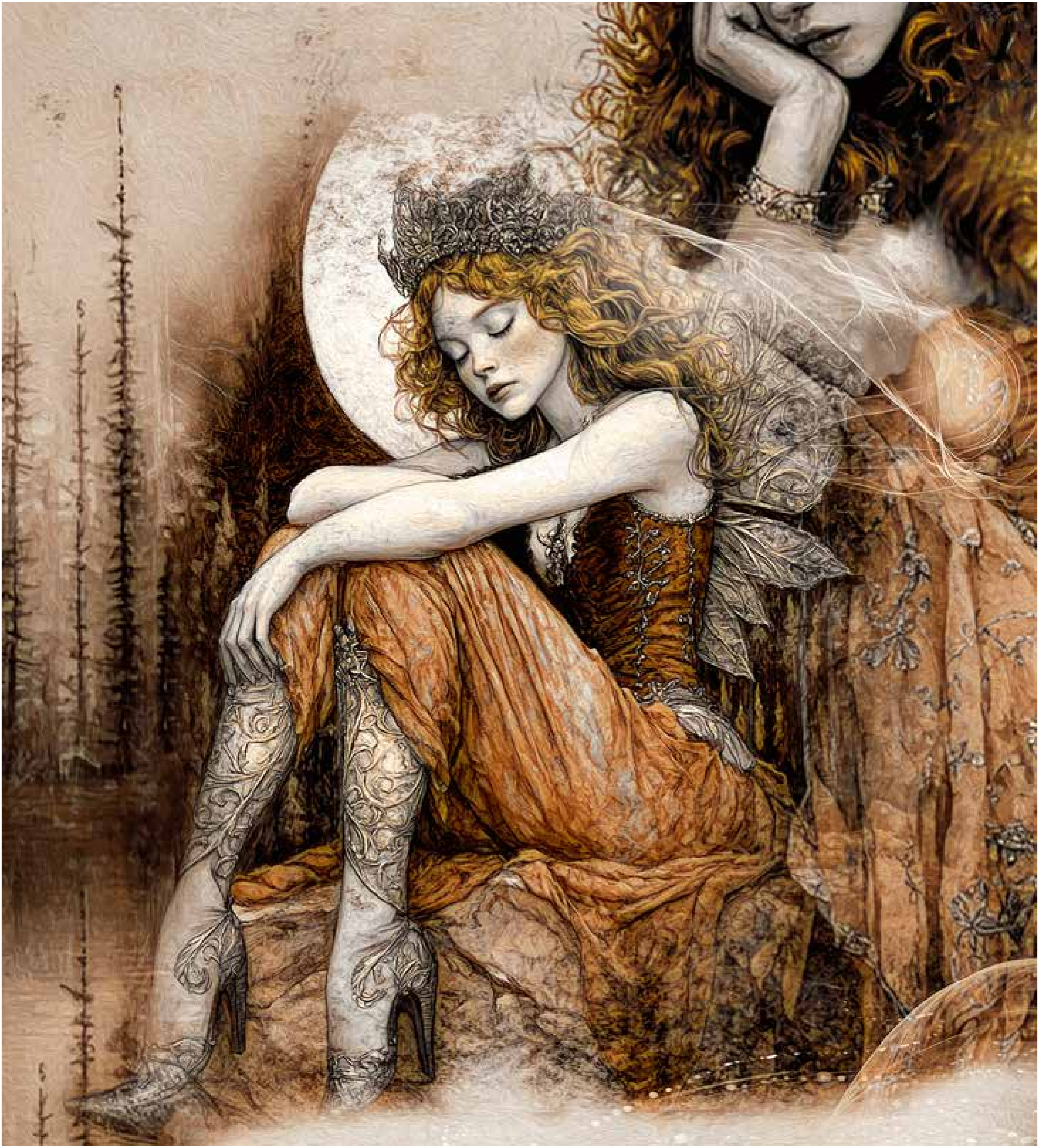
QUEEN OF PLANET Z



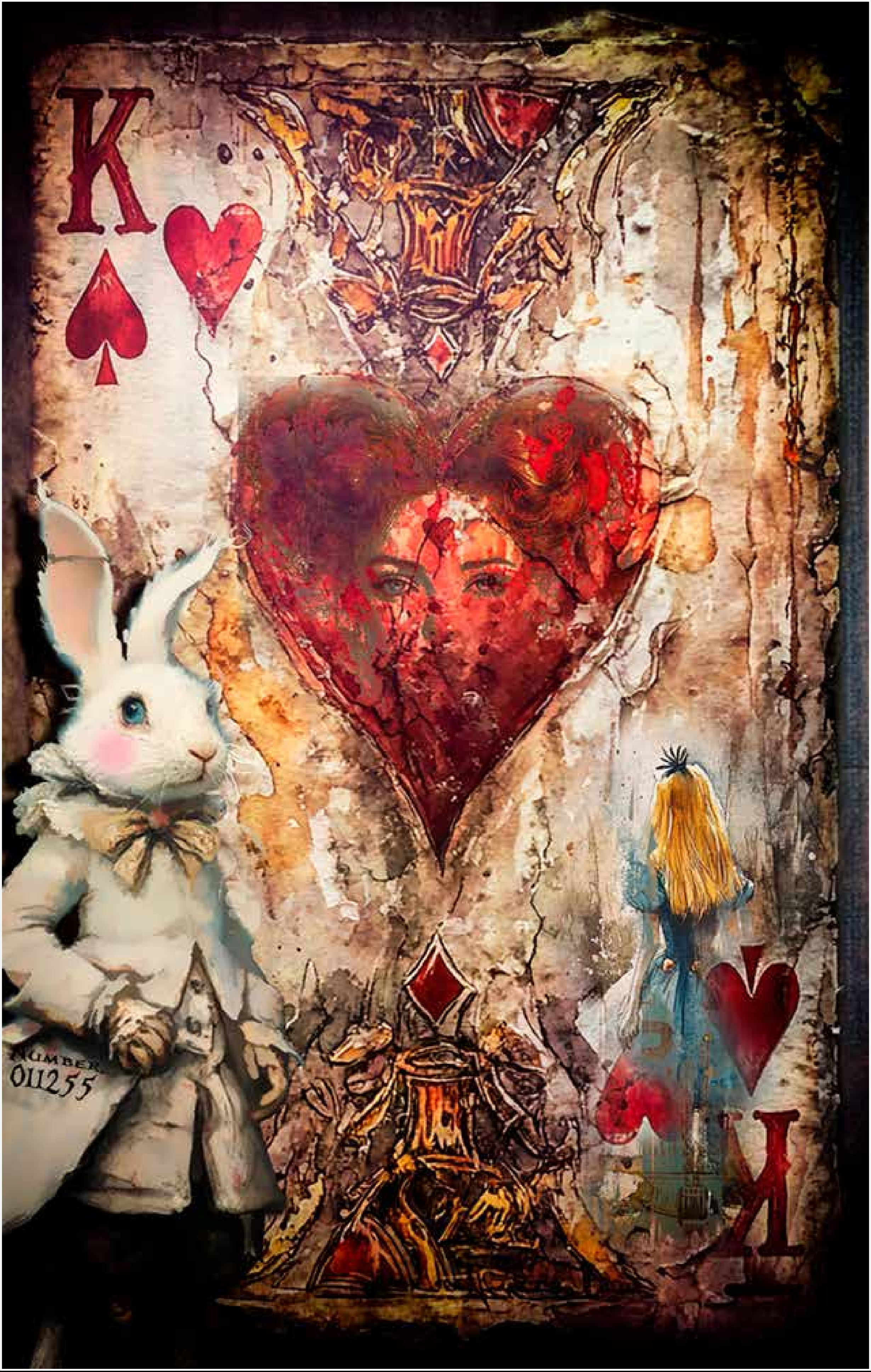
COLLAGE NO. 4

SUE MASTERSON (AUSTRALIA)

https://artistsdownunder.com.au/artist-4/sue-masterson/



ANAS SLEEPING ELF AND ILLUSIONIST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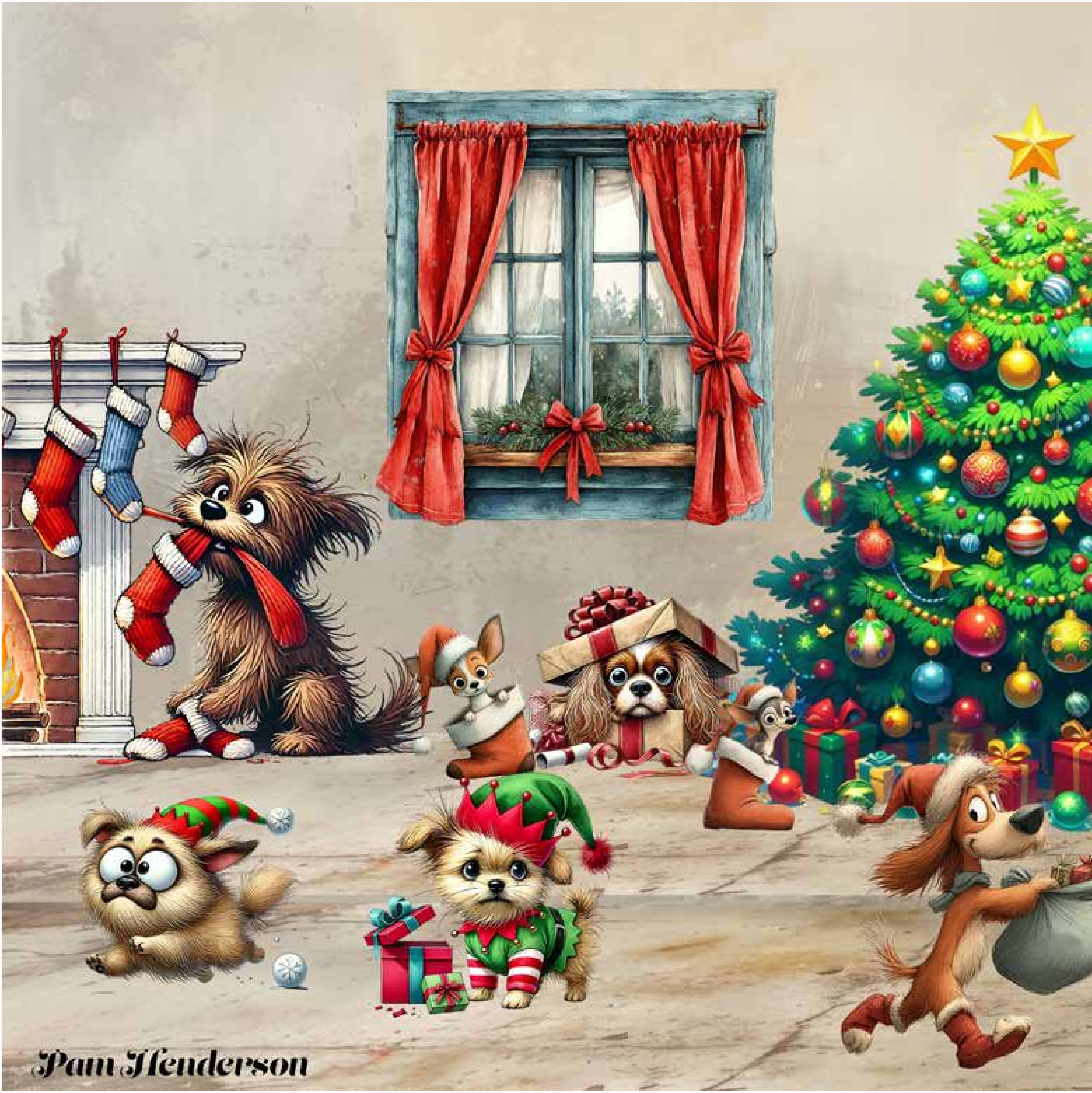
IT’S ON THE CARDS

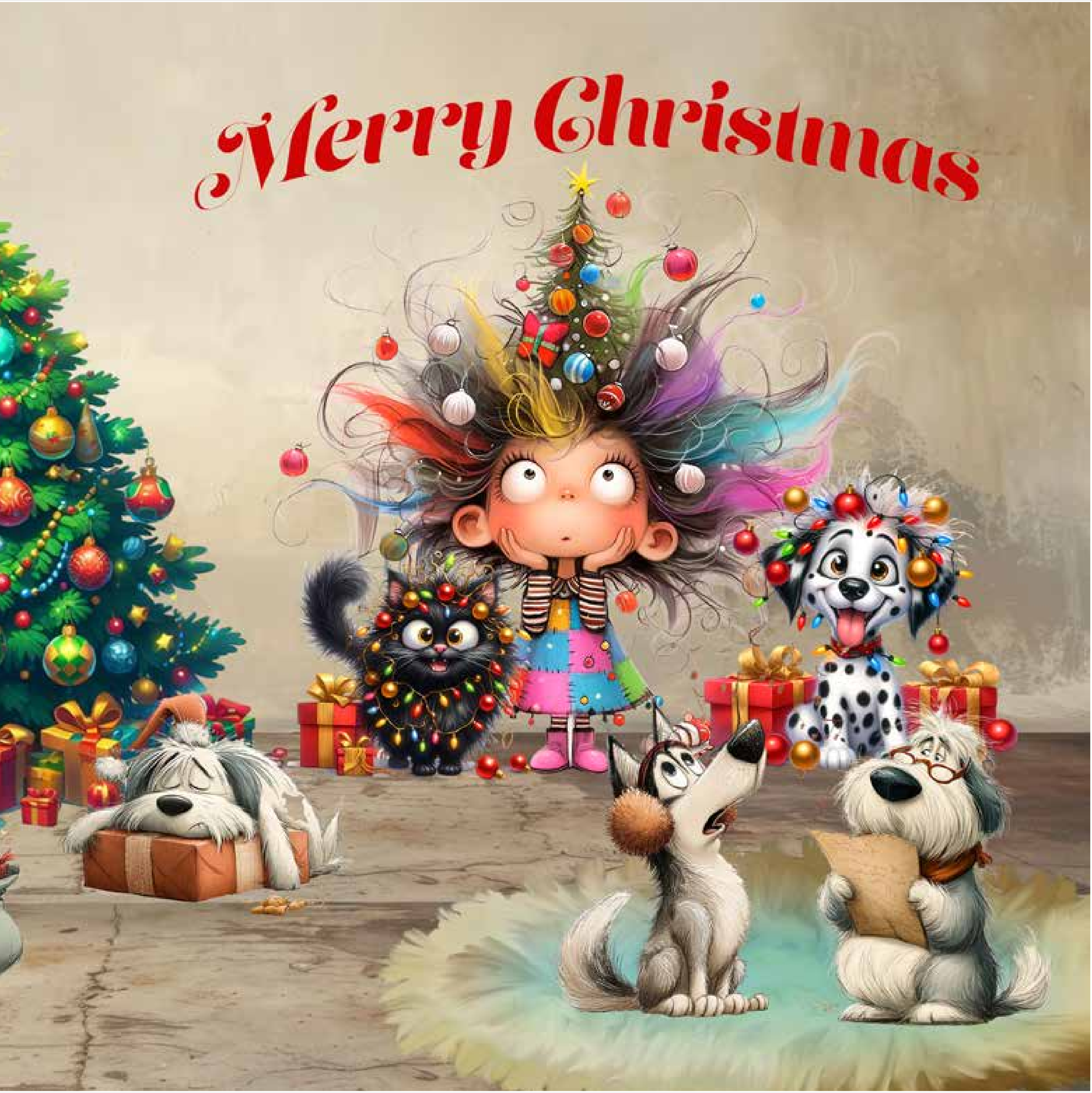
artists down under

monthly artistic photographic challenge

theme:

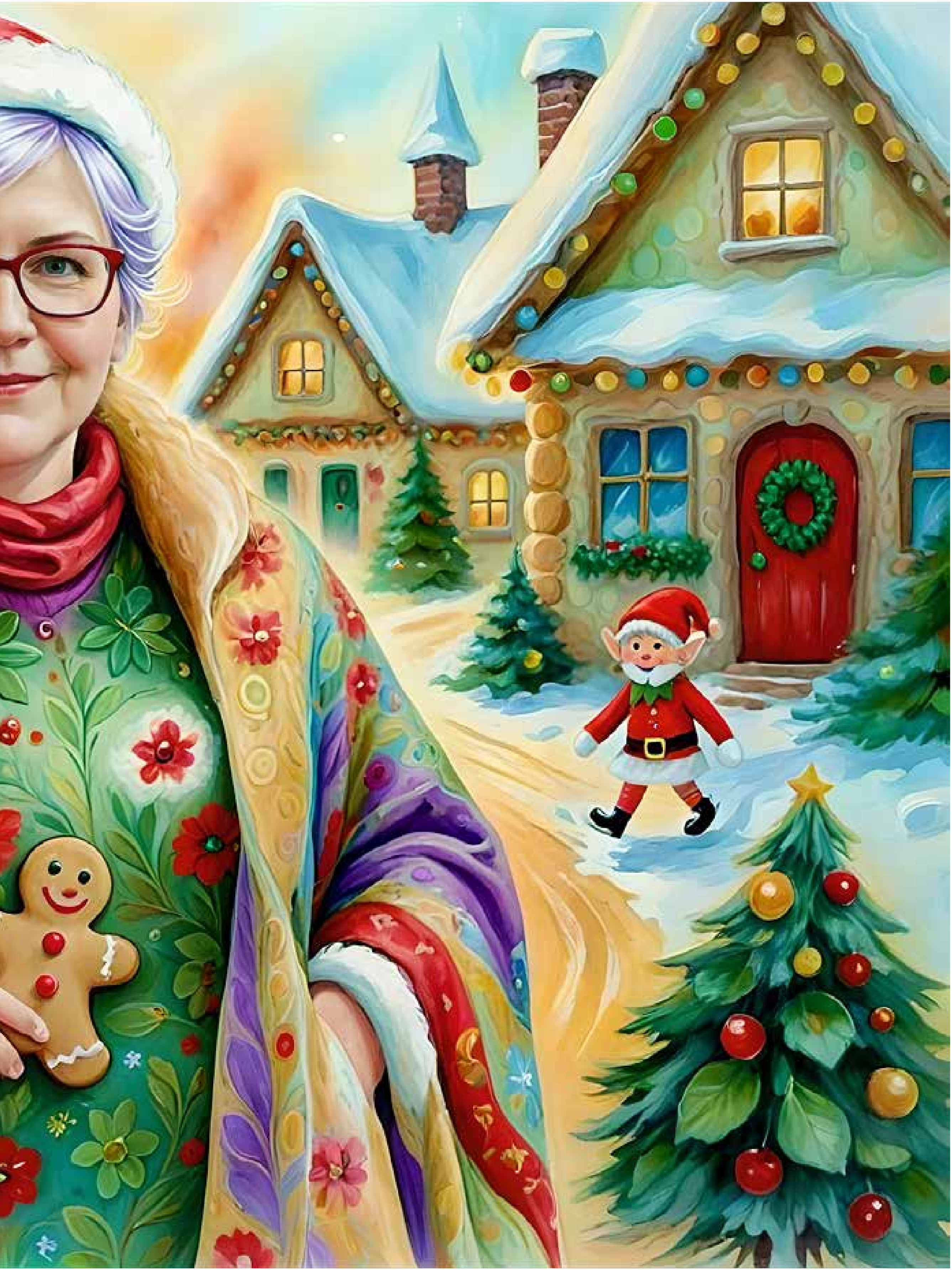
christmas


Pam Henderson

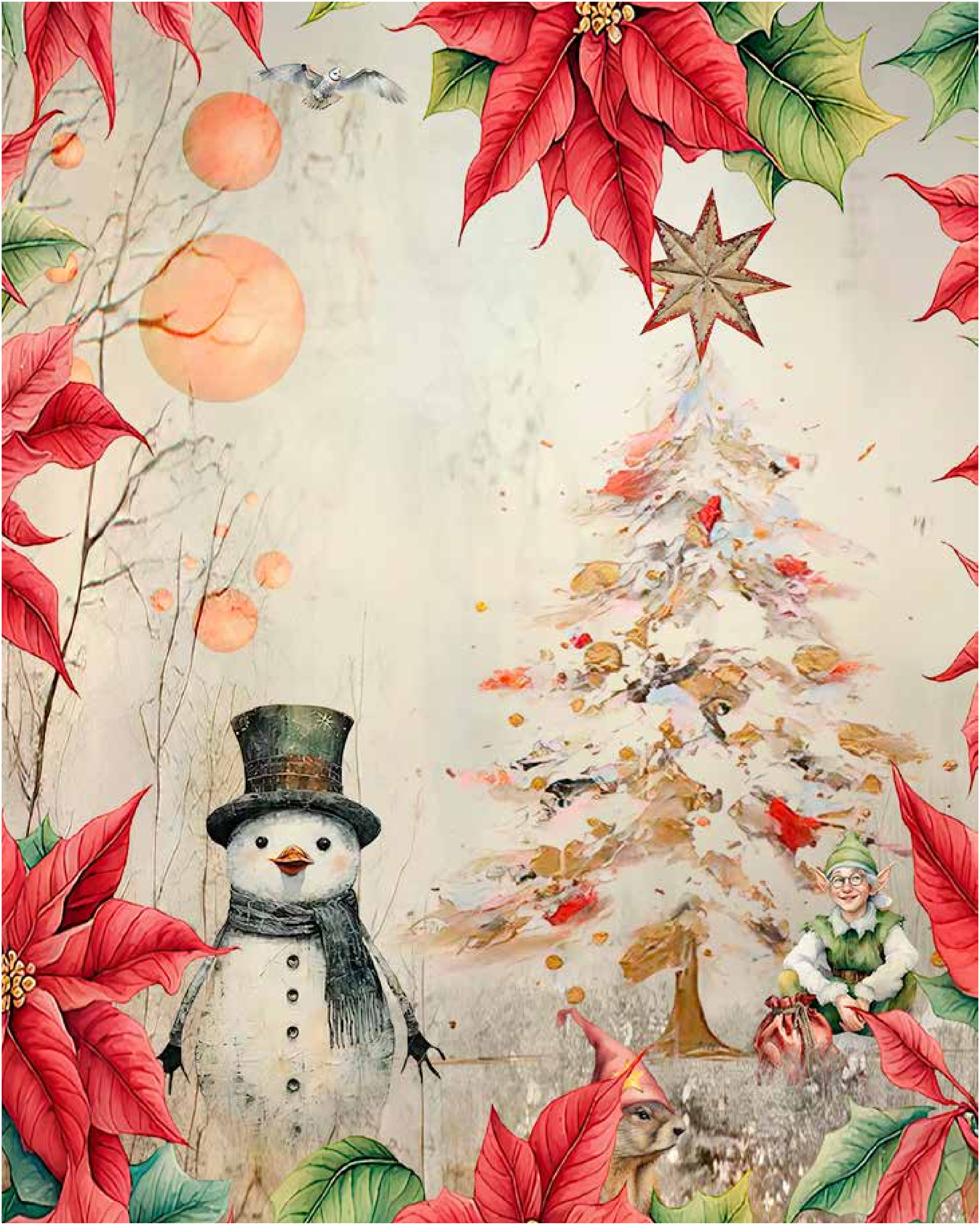

Merry Christmas

Pam Henderson - Santa's Helpers

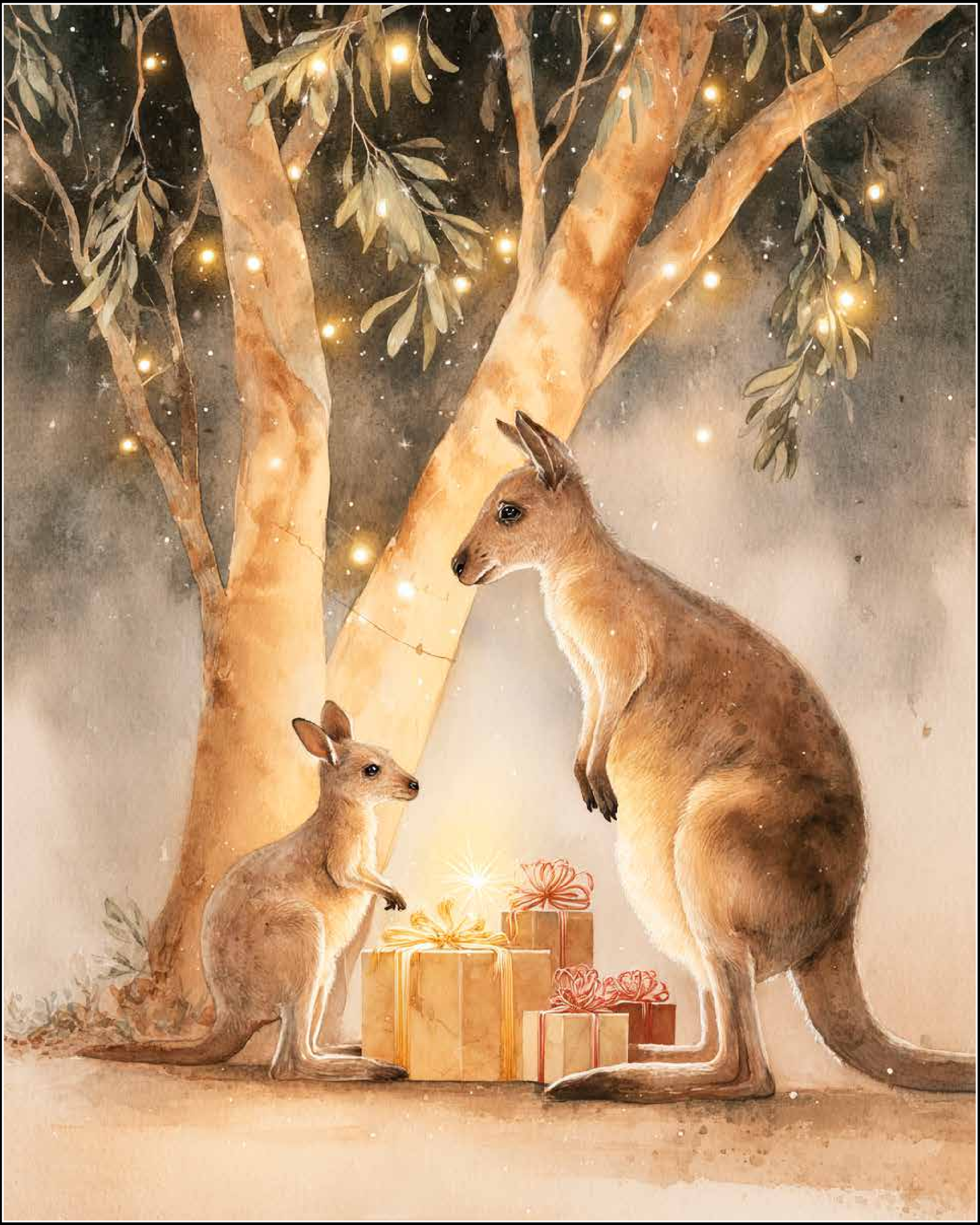
Karen Waalwyk - Australian Christmas



Ilona Abou-Zolof - Festive Warmth



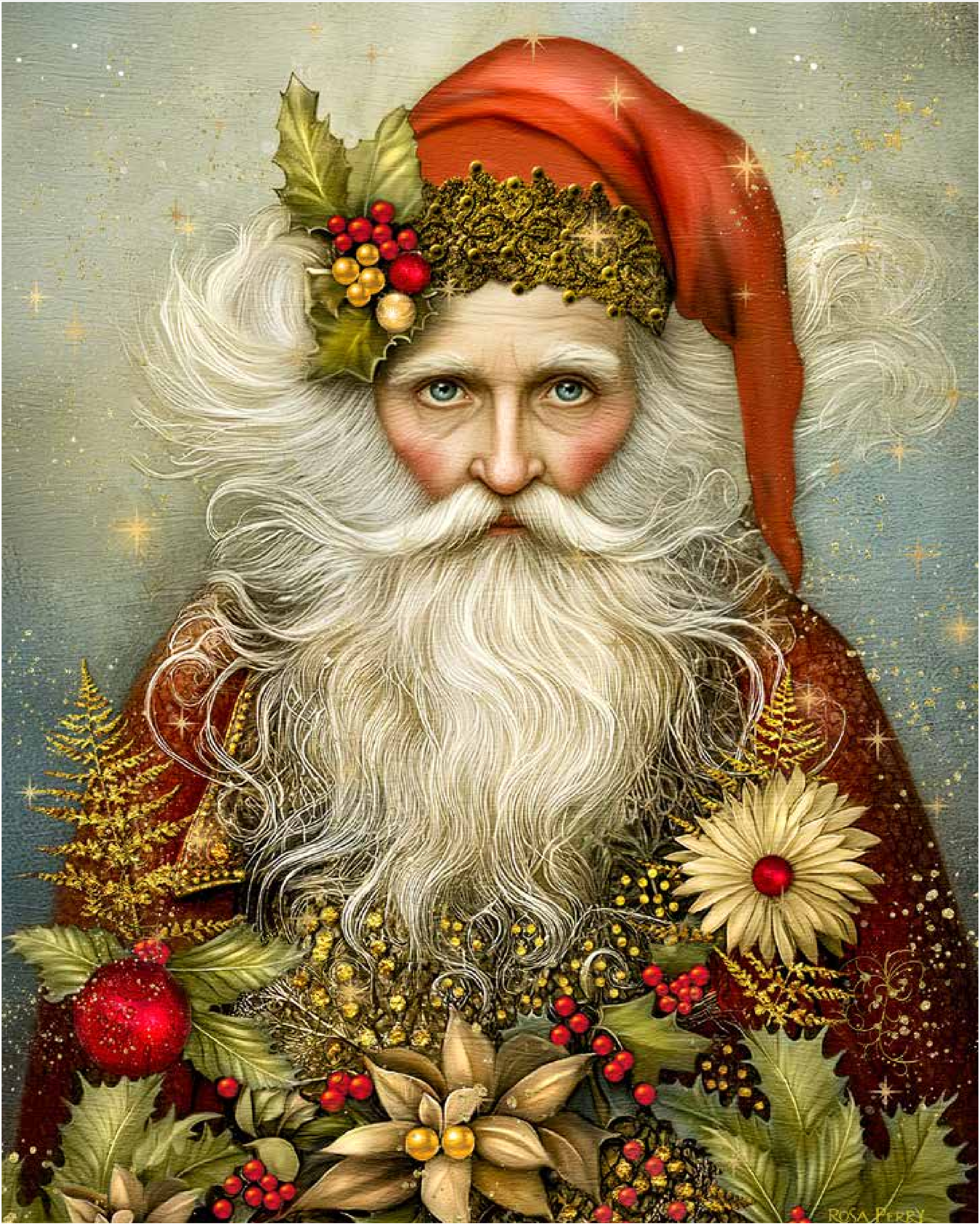
Bev Terawskyj - Christmas 2025



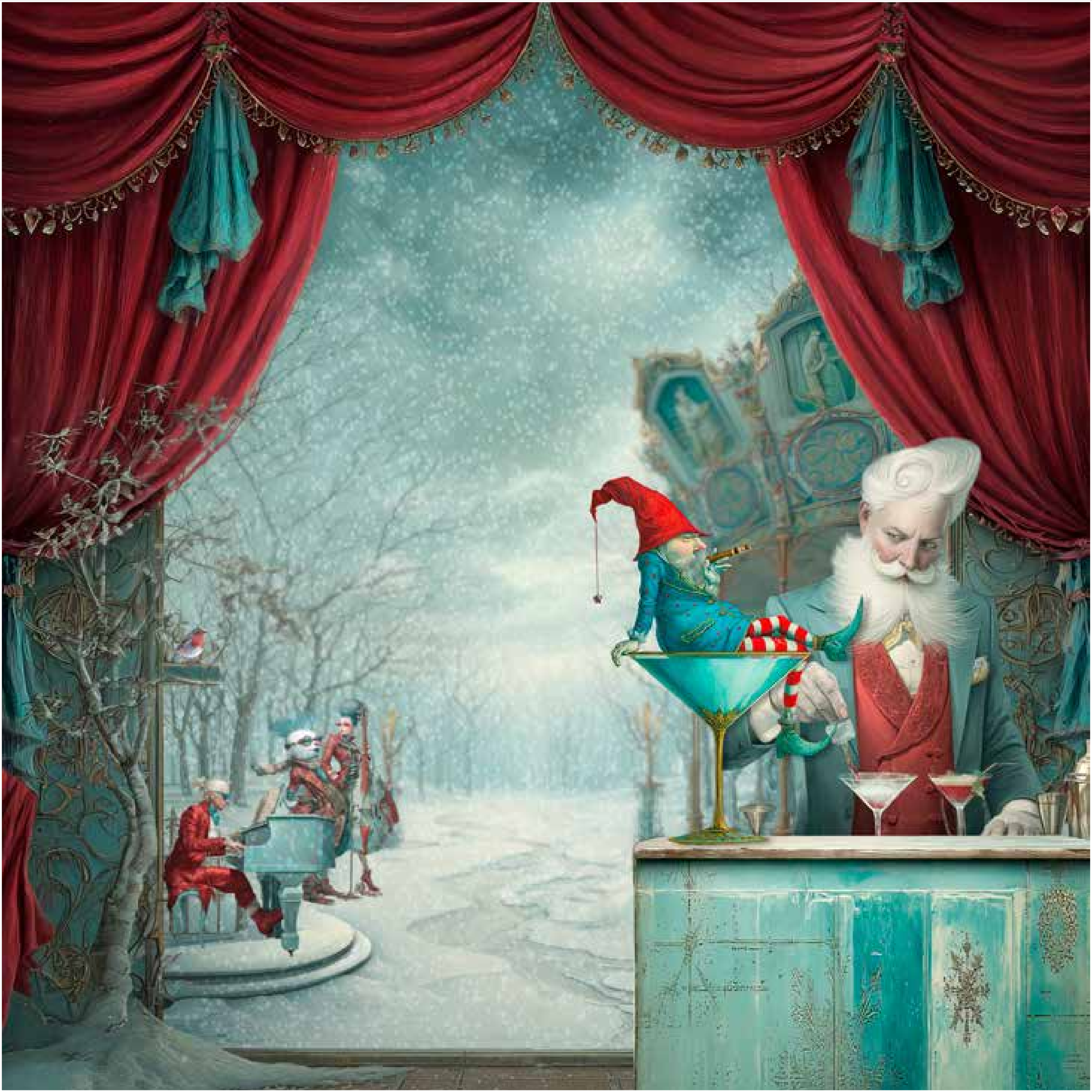
Christina Brunton - Kangaroo Christmas

Ho Ho Ho! Merry Christm

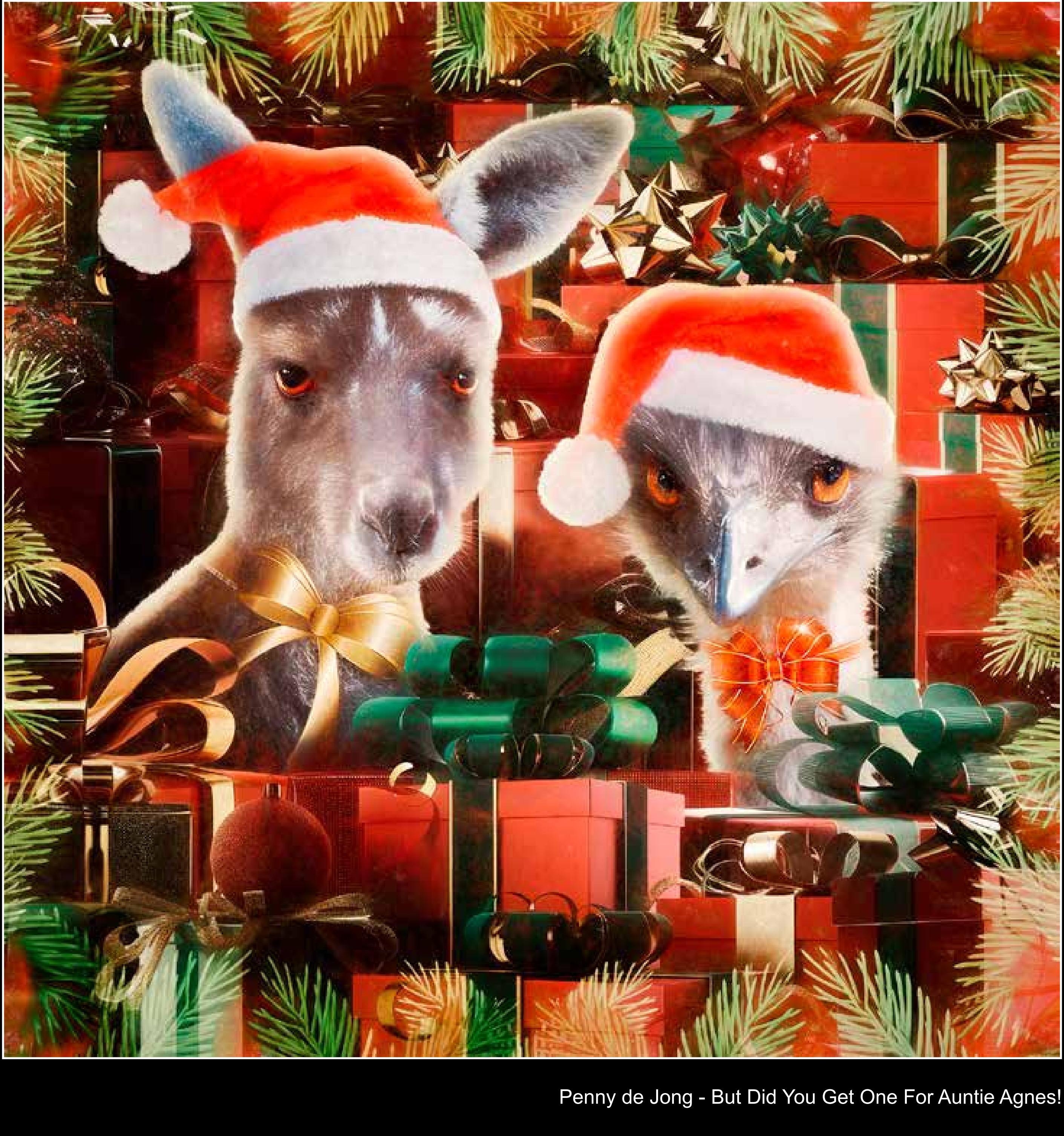
Prue Wright - Christmas Eve In The Outback



Rosa Perry - The Spirit Of Christmas



CatBeagle Creations - Tipsy The Elf Takes Five



Penny de Jong - But Did You Get One For Auntie Agnes!

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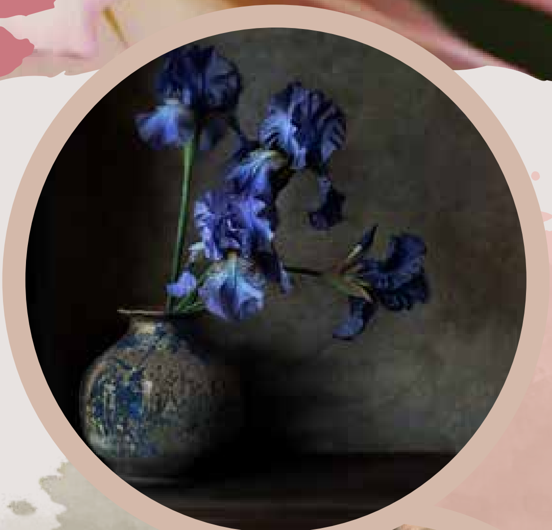
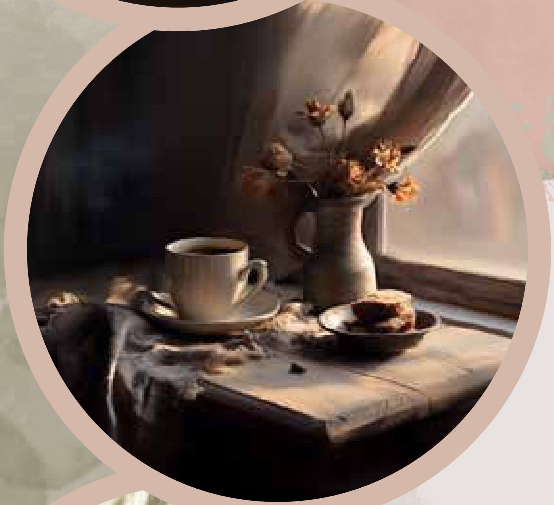
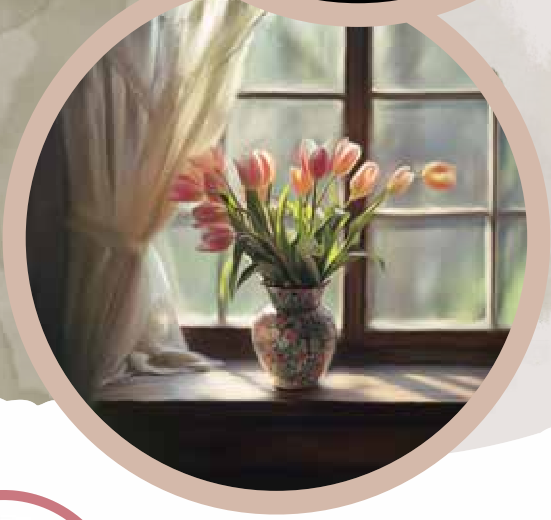
Still-Life & Flowers

SELF-PACED & ONLINE







Learn to use the Mixer Brush

In this class, you will learn how to effectively use the Mixer Brush tool in Adobe Photoshop to create beautiful and unique still-life & florals.

Learn techniques

The class is suitable for both beginners and advanced artists, and I will cover everything from the basics of Mixer Brush to advanced techniques like creating custom brushes and textures.

Master & Create

Whether you are looking to explore a new medium, expand your digital art skills, or simply enjoy the process of creating art, my Still-life & Flowers Mixer Brush Art Class is the perfect place to start.

Six band new projects

Six brand new projects including three still-life scenes and three flowers. All base images, bonus practice images, textures, E-Book and custom brushes provided

✉ julie.powell@outlook.com

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JULIE POWELL PHOTOGRAPHY

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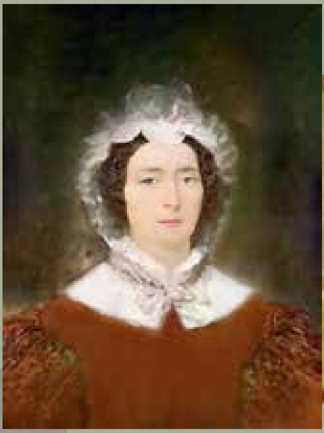
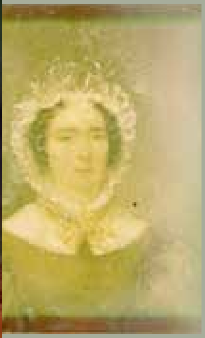
What I do

I believe that every photograph tells a story.
Whether it's a tattered family portrait
a weathered vacation snapshot or a torn vintage photograph
I strive to breathe new life into these treasured pieces of history.

Don't let the passage of time fade your most precious memories





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I delicately unravel the effects of time, meticulously repairing cracks, healing discolouration, and erasing years of wear and tear. Through the magic of digital artistry, I restore not only the image but also the emotions and memories encapsulated within it

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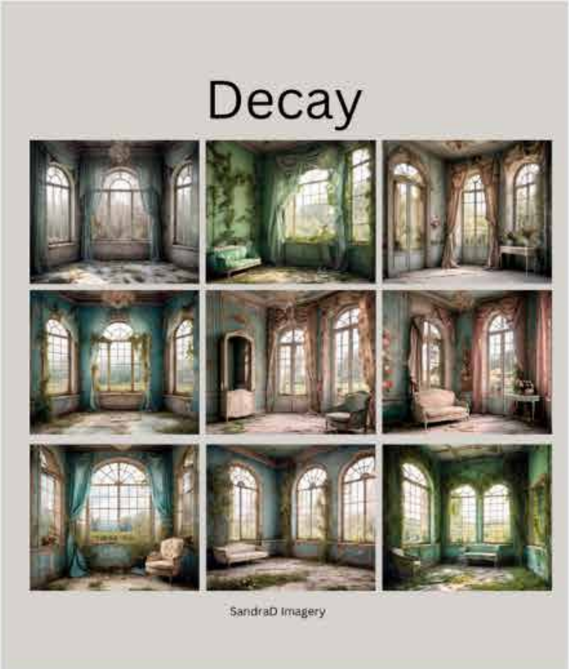
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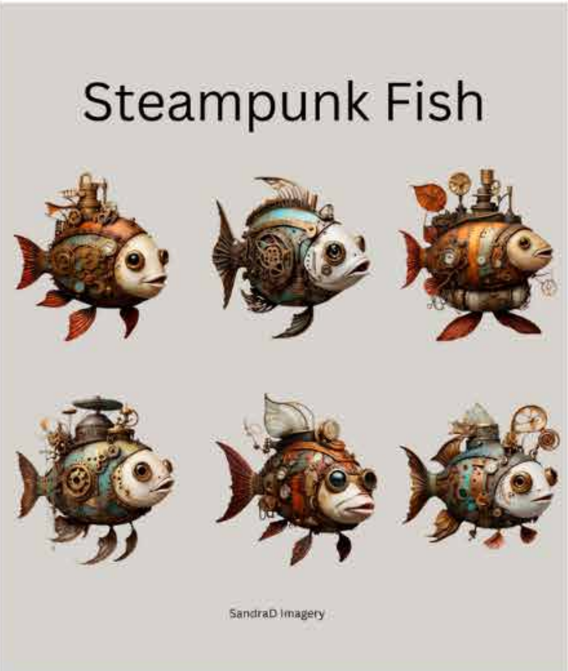
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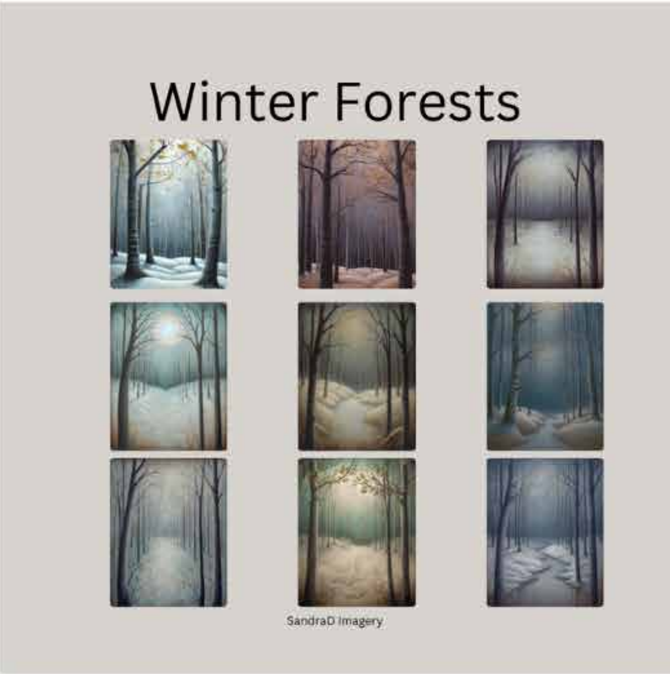
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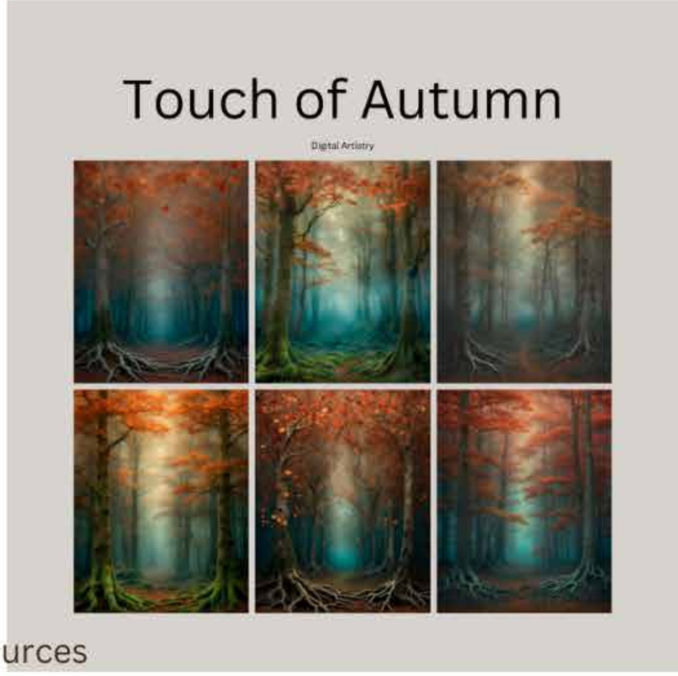
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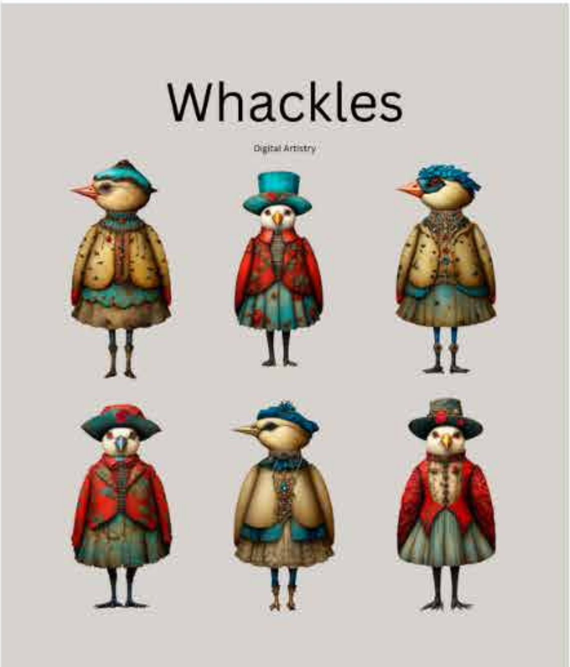
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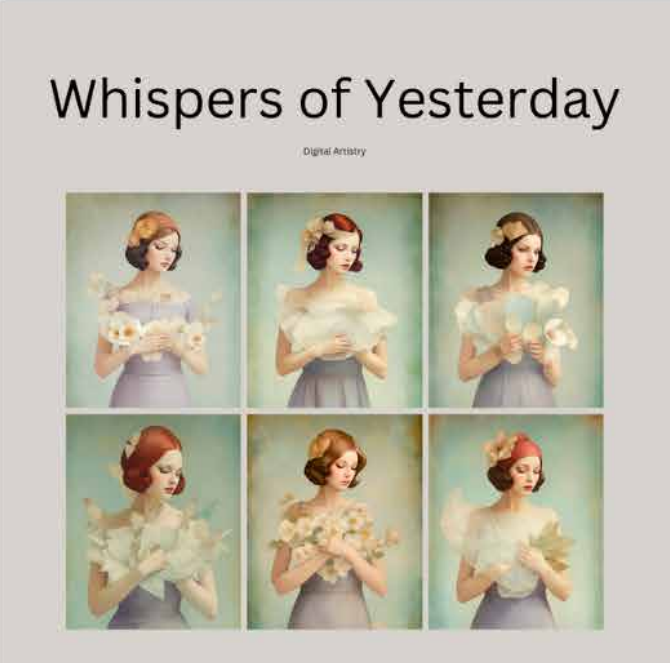
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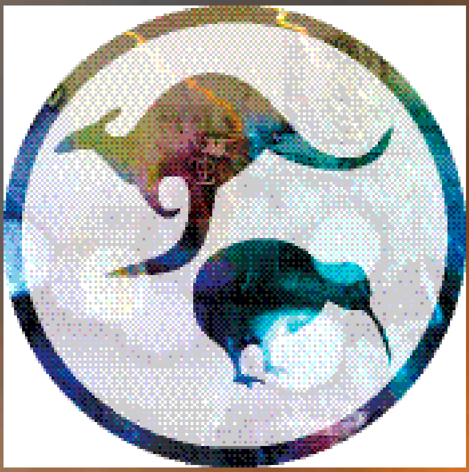

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